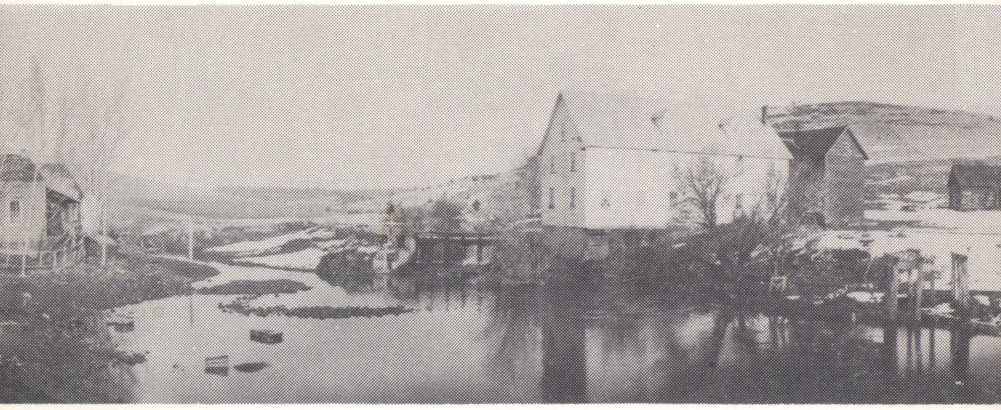
The Journal of the

MODOC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

No. 6 — 1984



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— WESTERN MODOC COUNTY —

Early Settlement of Big Valley • Big Valley Picture Gallery

Tionesta • Bricks • H. C. Watson

Memories of Little Hot Springs Valley

Hayden Hill • Registered Voters of Modoc County, 1898

— Five-year Index —

JOURNAL OF THE MODOC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE MODOC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Editor of this issue of the *Journal* — Patricia Barry

Cover photo —Ash Creek in Adin, as it was about 1918.
(Photo courtesy of Lois Russell Hobbs)

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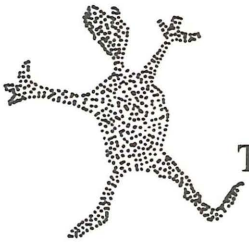

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The *Journal,* the official publication of the Modoc County Historical Society, is published annually. Subscriptions, which include membership in the Society and subscription to the Quarterly Newsletter, are $10.00 per calendar year. Please address correspondence to the Society at 600 South Main Street, Alturas, California 96101.

IN MEMORIAM

Contributions made to the Modoc County Historical Society in memory of the following decedents have been used to assist in the printing of this issue of the *Journal.*

MABEL NULL BUCHER, died in Alturas, February 19, 1983. She was born at Pittville, Shasta County, California, July 20, 1885, to John Marion Null and Mary Beck Null. Mabel Null was married to Fred Bucher at the Niles Hotel, Alturas, on November 14, 1906. They made their home at Fort Bidwell, California. Mabel's lifetime occupations were those of housewife and mother.

WALTER ADAMS CAMBRON, died in Klamath Falls, Oregon, January 15, 1983. The child of George Ward Cambron and Jennie M. Cambron, Walter was born on November 24, 1898, in Eagleville, California. On June 1, 1929, he was wed to Jewel Hickerson, in Lakeview, Oregon. As a young man, Walter was a rancher. Later, he became a sawmill worker. As leisure occupations, he enjoyed hunting and fishing.

EDITH E. PARTRIDGE CLINGON, died in Reno, Nevada, July 19, 1983. Edith was born January 27, 1912, at Termo, California. She was married to George Clingon March 10, 1977. Edith was a cook and housewife—"one of the best." Her favorite pastime in life was making friends.

THOMAS MAJOR EDGECOMB, died at Chico, California, December 14, 1982. He was born to Dr. Thomas Jefferson Edgecomb and Pauline Leschinsky Edgecomb on December 21, 1903, at Old Shasta, California. He was married to Martha Ruth Zimmerman February 16, 1941, in Reno. He spent his life as a professional photographer. He had several studios: first, at Alturas, then at Red Bluff, California, and finally at Quincy, California until 1952. He liked the out-of-

doors and spent time fishing and photographing in many parts of Northern California.

JOHN PHILLIP ESSEX, died in Alturas June 30, 1983. He was born March 22, 1887, to Phillipena Miller Essex and James Leonides Essex, at Cloverswale, California. His marriages were to Mamie Belle Fellencer, June 4, 1913, at Canby, California, and to Ethel Anderson, August 29, 1964, at Crescent City, California. His lifetime occupations were ranching and dairying. He loved horses, and he raised and broke his own horses to ride. His hobbies were fishing and hunting, working with wood, and gardening.

ARTHUR KENNETH FLOURNOY, died at Likely, California, August 14, 1983. He was born to Lutie and Arthur Flournoy February 18, 1906, at Likely. On April 19, 1930 he wed Mary Marshall, in Reno. The couple made their home at Likely, and engaged in cattle ranching. Kenneth's chief interests in life were the cattle and horses. Following retirement, Kenneth and Mary devoted some time to traveling.

ELECTA FOGERTY, died in Alturas, December 1, 1983. She was born Electa Clark near Alturas on February 3, 1887. On March 17, 1904, she was married to Cahn Aubrey Fogerty in Reno, Nevada. She and her husband operated a ranch on Parker Creek for her father until 1912 when they purchased ranch properties of their own on Parker Creek. They lived there, raising cattle and pigs, until retirement in 1949, when they moved to Alturas. For more than 50 years, Electa was a devoted instructor in local 4-H programs. The marriage of Cahn Aubrey Fogerty and Electa lasted 72 years. She was a housewife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great grandmother.

DAVID IRVIN GROVE, died in Reno, October 21, 1983. David was the son of Irvine and David L. Grove, and was born in Eagleville February 20, 1920. He was married to Kathleen Wylie January 22, 1940, and spent his lifetime as a cattle rancher. He was a member of the Surprise Valley

Lodge No. 235, Free and Accepted Masons, a patron of Bonner Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, a member of the Modoc, California, and National Cattlemen's Associations, a trustee of the Surprise Valley Joint Unified School District, a director of the Modoc County Fair, a longtime member of the Eagleville Fire Department, a committee member of the Modoc-Washoe Stewardship Program, and a member of the Eagleville Community Church.

BARBARA S. JOBE, died in Reno, Nevada, July 13, 1983. Barbara was born at Stockton, California, Janaury 26, 1925. She was the daughter of Theodore and Evelyn Stephens. On December 2, 1945, in Stockton, California, Barbara was married to Glenn R. Jobe. During her very active lifetime, her occupations were housewife, mother, rancher, newspaper correspondent, photographer and skier. Her hobbies, interests and avocations were closely tied to her life's work, for they included skiing, horses, newswriting for the *Modoc County Record,* the *Sacramento Bee,* the *Klamath Herald and News,* and Redding T.V. She also served on the school board, and was active in the ski club, and local youth activities. She was always interested in human relations.

MARJORIE HICKERSON HAUCK, died December 14, 1983 at Marysville, California. Marjorie was born June 19, 1912, at Lakeview, Oregon, to A.J. and Retta Hickerson. She was married August 29, 1959, to Ernest Hauck in Reno, Nevada. She spent many years as the County Assessor of Modoc County. Her chief interest and hobby was helping other people.

FRANKIE SMITH KERR, died at Williams, California, November 9, 1983. She was born at Fort Bidwell, California September 2, 1895. Her parents were George Christie Smith and Virgie Louella Smith. On April 22, 1913, she married Frank Kerr of Alturas in Cedarville, and lived in Modoc County until she moved to Santa Rosa in 1945. Mrs. Kerr was essentially a wife and mother, and loved her house, yard, and flower garden. She was a Past Matron of Bonner Chapter Eastern Star, and an honorary member of the

Modoc County Historical Society. In June, 1982, she moved to Williams to be nearer to her family.

EDWIN EUGENE MADISON, died in Alturas, June 22, 1983. He was born to Eugene Edwin Madison and Andrea Petersen Madison December 20, 1901. His lifetime occupation was that of carpenter. He enjoyed his family; his grandchildren were a delight to him. He liked hunting, fishing, ice skating, skiing, and spending time with his many friends.

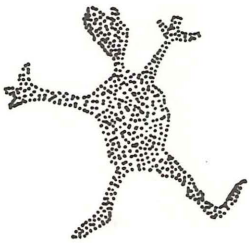
JIM LESTER McCRARY, died at his home in Canby, California, on August 24, 1983. The son of Roscoe and Vivian McCrary, Jim was born April 1, 1924, at New Pine Creek, California (just a few feet on the California side of the line). On April 27, 1946, he married Velma Arnett, of Likely. After attending grade school at Canby, Jim attended Modoc High School, and established several outstanding track records at that time. During his senior year he entered the Marine Corps (December, 1942), serving until October, 1945. During this World War II service, he spent 2½ years in the South Pacific. Jim worked many years as a logger and heavy equipment operator.

JOHN MEYER, died in Reno, February 8, 1983. John was born in Hoboken, New Jersey, April 19, 1902. He attended grammar school in Alturas. He married Virgie Rea in Alturas on June 14. In 1918 he joined the Army, and served in World War I with the Coast Artillery Corps in France. On his return home, he went to work on the N-C-O Railway as a conductor, stayed with railroad work following the merger with the Southern Pacific, and worked 47 years, retiring on April 30, 1967. He enjoyed traveling, rock collecting and woodworking. He was a charter member of the Alturas Veterans of Foreign Wars and received his 45-year pin. He was also a 50-year member of the Eagles Lodge in Lakeview, Oregon.

MILLARD JOEL POTTER, died in Alturas, March, 1983. He was born in Truckee, California in 1906, to Franklin B. and Josephine Potter. In 1925 he was married to Sally Elizabeth Beaumont in the Presbyterian Church in Sacramento, Calfornia. He was employed at sawmills, ranches, and dairies until retirement. His hobbies were golf, hunting, fishing, and rock hunting. He also wrote "Modoc Memories" for the *Modoc County Record* for some time.

THOMAS MASTEN RAMSEY, died in Alturas May 3, 1983. He was born January 16, 1899, to Abner and Minnie Ramsey, in California. He was married to Addie in Reno, August 17. 1922. His lifetime occupation was that of rancher. He was a horseman.

ROLAND BROWN SHERMAN, died in Alturas, December 28, 1983. He was born in Adin, California, May 18, 1904 to Samuel and Caroline Sherman. He was married to Dora Auble June 14, 1925, at Adin. His lifetime occupation was working for the United States Forest Service. He was a sportsman and outdoorsman, and his hobbies were hunting, fishing, and taxidermy.



EARLY SETTLEMENT OF BIG VALLEY

—William Newell Davis, Jr.

Acknowledgement—The following article is reprinted from *Sagebrush Corner: The Opening of California's Northeast* by permission of William Newell Davis, Jr., and Garland Publishing, Inc., New York. *Sagebrush Corner* was published in 1974.

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF BIG VALLEY

by

William Newell Davis, Jr.

Situated in the west of Lassen-Modoc and bisected by the line separating the two counties, Big Valley remained free of white settlement for several years after Surprise Valley to the east and Fall River Valley to the west were occupied. Although travelers frequently passed through the area, and Chalk Ford on the Pit River near the present Bieber bridge saw much use in the 1860's, the danger of Indian attack there was too great for settlers to be willing to risk. "Our northern frontier," a petition of Honey Lakers gloomily declared in June, 1862, ". . . will never be settled by whites." Such was the reputation of Big Valley generally in those days.

But time ran out on the natives and this spot, too, was stripped from the old domain. In August, 1868, a company of six men moved over the mountain from Fall River Valley to become Big Valley's first settlers. The pioneering party included Thomas Turnbull of Kentucky, Patrick Henry Gordon of Virginia, and Joe Gordon. The first cabin, Turnbull's was built three miles southwest of present Lookout, just north of the county line. That fall and winter eight additional cabins were constructed in the west end of Big Valley, among the builders being Pat Gordon, Lewis Turnbull, and H. Connette, and men by the name of Sylvester and Baker. A single winter, even though it was a mild one, was apparently enough for most of the newcomers and in the spring all

but Pat Gordon and the Turnbulls left for other parts.

On April 15, 1869, Adin Gainey McDowell of Kentucky, then fifty-two years old, Louis W. Harris of Illinois, and Samuel Nebecker of Ireland took locations in the northeastern end of the valley and in doing so gave genesis to the town of Adin some forty miles southwest of the forks of the Pit. The first locator in the Lassen portion of Big Valley that year was Josiah C. Purdom of North Carolina, who arrived in March. In May, Richard A. Ricketts of Tennessee claimed a section south of the line, and a little later Joseph C. Cannon of Missouri came in. In the fall Benjamin F. Studley of Maine settled on Willow Creek three miles southwest of Adin. Among the many newcomers the next year were Moses A. Carmichael of Pennsylvania, a claimant on the west side just south of the county line, and Asa White of Kentucky, who opened, two miles below present Bieber, one of the first hotels in the valley. Round Valley to the northeast was settled about the same time as Big Valley, two of the early landtakers being Thomas McCluer of Illinois and George F.H. Rice of Tennessee. Round Valley was originally called Gordon Valley but Siskiyou supervisors, at the settlers' request, officially changed the name to the present one on August 7, 1871.

Big Valley thenceforth was rapidly homesteaded. In April, 1870, it was said that there were at least 350 settlers in the valley, with twenty-seven families living in the Lassen portion. The census marshal of Siskiyou, surveying the conditions in present Modoc County that summer, was touched by the plight of some of the newcomers. "Many of the settlers," he reported in reference to Goose Lake, Hot Spring and Big Valleys, "live in brush and log houses, scarcely five feet square, with families of a dozen children, without the least article of household furniture, not even a box, bench, or table of any kind, eating their meals on the ground. . ." He was describing the very first stages of settlement, of course, but his statement also reflected the fact that the transition from campsite to permanent home was often painfully time-consuming and difficult.

In keeping with the development, the Siskiyou officials on November 3, 1869, created the Big Valley Township,

embracing a strip all the way from Oregon south to Lassen County, the second township in present Modoc. The Susanville *Sage Brush* had asserted in August, again pointing up the confusion existing as to jurisdiction, that $100,000 worth of Big Valley lay within Lassen County, but "Siskiyou, with her usual amount of impudence, forced citizens of the County to put taxes into her treasury. . . ." As no township election had been held, the Siskiyou supervisors on February 7, 1870, acted on the settlers' petitions by appointing William McClure justice of the peace, Louis Harris constable, and Henry Fitzhugh road overseer. The Big Valley Township, of Lassen County, the counterpart of its Siskiyou neighbor, was created in February, 1873, though for years Lassen had administered official affairs directly from Susanville. James L. Cannon of Missouri was the Lassen justice of the peace in 1871; later in the decade, Henry Young, D.L. Goble, and William R. Schooler of Kentucky served in the office. In the early 1870's, M.C. Smith and William C. Arnett were Lassen's Big Valley constables.

The Siskiyou supervisors on August 2, 1869, authorized three school districts for Big Valley: Big Valley near present Lookout, among its petitioners being Horace Lane of Ohio and Thomas Turnbull; Ash Creek, with R.C. Robinson and James R. Alfrey, petitioning; and Gordon Valley, with J.D. Rumberg of Virginia and Louis Harris, petitioning. The Adin School District was created from the Gordon Valley District on November 8, 1870. Lassen County followed with school districts for its own portion of the valley: Providence in 1871, Washington in 1873, and Juniper in 1877. The Big Valley Hospital District, of Siskiyou County, was created in 1871. The advance from scattered settlement to organized society had indeed been swift.

The economic lull of the mid-1870's brought Big Valley development to a near standstill and many a partially worked homestead was abandoned. But beginning in 1877, a second movement of settlers to the northeastern corner took place, with Big Valley receiving a large number. "The tidal wave is bearing them from all quarters," the Alturas *Independent* said in June, 1877.

Adin

Situated at the eastern head of Big Valley and less than a mile north of the Lassen line, Adin was in a particularly favorable position for rapid advance. Indicative of the degree of settlement there, within four months of the arrival of Adin McDowell, an election precinct for the town had been established. In this Louis W. Harris was named the clerk, McDowell and Leonard Buell of Vermont, the judges, and the pioneer log store of Harris and Rumberg, the polling place. "Aidenville" post office was authorized on April 13, 1871, the first postmaster being James A. Bedford; that name was not officially shortened until December, 1876, when George H. Knight of Massachusetts assumed the office.

By the summer of 1872 a growing Adin contained two stores, two saloons, two blacksmith shops, a hotel, and a carpenter's shop. Regular services of the Christian, Methodist, and Presbyterian denominations were being held. The foremost mercantile house now was E. Lauer and Company. A migrant from Germany in 1848, Emanuel Lauer had conducted a dry goods store, trafficked in gold dust, and sold fire insurance in Yreka, but when the 4th of July celebration in 1871 there resulted in the burning of a large part of the town's business district, including his own store, he moved to Adin where in August he began a trading partnership with Louis Cohen. In 1876, having become the sole owner, he sold the concern and went up to Alturas to try his luck. The new owners were George H. Knight, the firm's bookkeeper, and Thomas A. Roseberry, until then the bookkeeper of James H. Beecher's local store. Roseberry and Knight were soon on their way to becoming the valley's leading merchants. They opened a branch store at Hayden Hill in July, 1879; J.W. Harvey was taken into the company in 1881; in 1888 Knight became the sole proprietor and opened still another store, in Lookout. Meanwhile Roseberry had turned his attention to stockraising and to politics; he served a term in the state assembly in 1885-1887 and in 1892 was appointed Register of the land office in Susanville. At one time or another, nearly everyone in the valley had dealings with the Knight emporium.

Adin's business figures in 1875 included Edward Arents of New York, saloon keeper; Montgomery Auble of Illinois, livery stable proprieter, T.A. Bautz, lawyer; William Benham of Tennessee and Berry Ingram of Arkansas, blacksmiths; Albert Blaske of Germany, druggist; Bucher and Briscoe, dealers in general merchandise; A.J. Frank of South Carolina, blacksmith; Elisha P. Grubbe of Virginia, general merchant; Henry F. Hall of New Hampshire, physician; Louis W. Harris, livery stable proprietor; E. Lauer, general merchant and postmaster; Henry Mann of Ohio, saloon keeper; C. McMath, hotelkeeper; Hugo Schminck of Germany, dealer in stoves, pumps, and tinware; and Lemuel G. Traugh of Pennsylvania, lawyer. In addition, there were lumber and grist mills in the neighborhood.

By 1877 Adin had become the largest town in the county and was going ahead faster than any other. The buildings of the first days were being replaced with more commodious and substantial structures, some of brick. New enterprises were appearing. A.J. Frank's two-story hotel, advertised without stint as Modoc's finest, was opened that June, with the upper story given over to a spacious hall for dances, theatricals, and the like. The town now had two hotels. Adin's prize construction of the year was the new brick schoolhouse, the ground floor consisting of two classrooms and the second a hall for fraternal orders. A subscription by the citizens had met the entire $5,000 cost of the building. The principal of Adin's school in 1878 was George W. Welch, "a high-up professor," who was also justice of the peace, a notary public, and Noble Grand of the newly organized Adin Odd Fellows. A graduate of the State Normal School in San Jose, Welch had returned to Modoc after an absence of nearly thirty years. His parents, Oregon-bound in 1847, had been obliged to pause in Surprise Valley where he was born. Welch claimed, on fairly good grounds, to be the first white person to be born in what is now the county.

Travelers stopping in Adin in 1878 could choose between three hotels; Frank's, The Adin, and the Modoc, the popular host of the last until his withdrawal in November being William F. Harbert of Illinois. The opening the next year of the Adin Millinery Store and the Brewery of Jones and

Bofinger, to take their place with such already established concerns as Alexander Buckhart's Boot and Shoemaking Shop, the Adin planing mill, and A.E. Bending's Hair Dressing and Shampooing Parlor, indicated that the community's roughest days were over.

Conditions in Adin in mid-November, 1879, were depicted in the Adin *Hawkeye*: "The town has been lively during the week, streets crowded with teams; grist mill and planing mill running to their full capacity; farmers hauling their grists and fruit trees; teams arriving with freight. Old Sol has broken the blockade and all is lovely. Those who have any doubt concerning the stability of this section, should visit Adin about this time and convince themselves." The local paper, established in September, 1878, by Lafayette S. Barnes, asserted in January, 1880, that in the amount of business transacted, Adin was second only to Susanville in northeastern California, a single Adin firm having handled in the year just past a $180,000 business.

Bieber, Lookout

Big Valley post office, with James D. Tabor of New York in charge, was authorized on May 20, 1873, for the settlers in the center of the valley. Argusville post office at Hillside Station, Lassen County, near the point at which modern Highway 299 begins its ascent of the eastern slope of Big Valley Mountain, was established on July 30, 1873, to serve the western-most part of the valley. John W. Isaman of New York, was its first postmaster. As a trading center in the years during which the future Bieber was but a single-cabin homestead, Argusville offered a general merchandise store and a hotel, managed in 1875 by Joseph D. Curry, of Maine, and Columbus Chandler, respectively. With the rise of Bieber as the decade ended, Argusville lost most of its importance.

The town of Bieber at Chalk Ford on the Pit River, at the northern border of Lassen County and ten miles southwest of Adin, began to take form in the late 1870's. "There has been quite a store established at Chalk Ford in the central part of the valley within the last two months," Big Valley

homesteader George Thompson reported to the Susanville *Advocate* in October, 1877; "many think that this will be the principal trading point on account of its central locality and its water privilege. . . ." Nathan Bieber, a native of Germany, had come to Big Valley earlier that year, a stocky, energetic youth scarcely out of his teens, to help manage the Josephson store a few miles southeast of Chalk Ford. Josephson had arrived the season before under the direction of Bieber's uncle, Max Posner, to determine the extent of the trade the district would support. To capitalize on the advantages befalling Chalk Ford through a recent reorientation of the valley road system, Josephson and Bieber in September, 1877, shifted their operations to that point. They put up their general store about 500 feet east of the river and a substantial residence also some 200 feet to the store's south. Bieber post office was authorized on October 15, 1877, with N. Bieber named the postmaster.

In the presence of Justice of the Peace William R. Schooler and William Gerig of Switzerland, a witness, young Bieber on November 17, 1877 handed $600 in gold coin to Theodore Pleisch to become the owner of the site on which the present town lies. Pleish had filed for 160 acres in May, 1873, and had developed the claim at least to the extent of constructing a cabin on the river's east bank a hundred yards north of the ford. Before long Josephson left the valley, but Bieber, "the young prince merchant," as he was styled by the Adin *Hawkeye*, stayed on to become the patriarch of the holding.

In 1878 the settlement's first blacksmith shop was opened by William F. Lamburth of Tennessee and Andrew Koegel established the first saloon. The second general store, that of the Brownell brothers, DeWitt, Duane, and Don, the last being the firm's agent in San Francisco, began business on May 21, 1879. A search for pasturage for his sheep had brought DeWitt G. Brownell to Big Valley in 1874, then a young man of twenty-three, and he had continued on with stockraising there until entering the merchandising field. The newly-constructed Bieber hotel was taken over in September, 1879, by Clinton "Doc" Phillibar of Indiana. Respecting lodging for travelers, Nathan Bieber wrote many

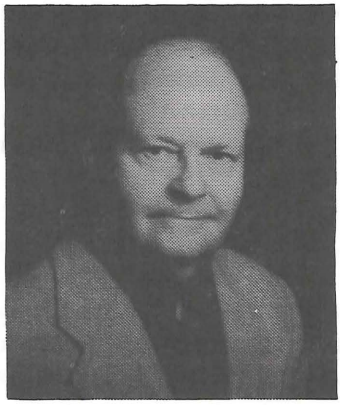
years later, "my dwelling was used as the first Hotel in 1878."

The most imposing addition to the town in 1879 was the two-story, frame Odd Fellows Hall, which was completed in August. The construction was the joint undertaking of the fraternal order and the Brownells. The lodge room on the second floor was reported to be "beautifully finished off inside and quite complete in all its appointments"; the ground floor housed the Brownell brothers' store. "In the vicinity of Bieber, I counted fifteen new dwellings and barns since my last visit a year and a half ago," the publisher of the Adin *Hawkeye* reported on August 8, 1879; "I predict a prosperous future for the town of Bieber." By June, 1880, after three years of development, the town contained a blacksmith shop, two shoe-making shops, a livery stable, a restaurant, a hotel, three saloons, two general stores, and L.L. Rall's variety store, which last was advertised as being "stocked with a variety of fruit and toothsome articles, also good cigars and tobacco." In another year travelers had a choice between the public houses: The Bieber Hotel, with Lewis Powers the proprietor, and the City Hotel, managed by William G. Stearns. Stearns was also the keeper of the Chalkford Saloon, the chief competitor of which was Swigard & Kenyon's Old Chalkford Saloon. The partners Shubert and Givvins were then being advertised as carpenters, wagon-makers, and undertakers. In the fall of 1880 Mrs. James Woodin conducted the community's first school, a private one, in the town hall. The work was taken over in the spring by Miss Nellie Lyon as Mrs. Woodin was hired to teach at the Pleasant Butte schoolhouse. In September, 1881, local people were talking hopefully about establishing a college in Bieber.

In the present Lookout vicinity in northwest Big Valley, which was originally known as Riverside, Whitley's Ford on the Pit River was the earliest trading center. Its first post office, a short-lived one, was established on August 24, 1874. The neighborhood business figures in 1875 included Stephen C. Mooers of Maine, dealer in general merchandise; E. Breeder, carriage and wagon maker; O.T. Smith, manufacturer of harness and saddlery; Mathias W.

Calkins of New York, diaryman and cheese maker; John W. Marcus of Missouri, carpenter; Gordon and Johnson, manufacturers of spokes and shingles; Morton M. Sonberger of Vermont, photographer; Allen Tebbs of California, blacksmith and wagon-maker; Henry Longcor of Illinois, postmaster; and James W. Whitley of Ohio, keeper of the hotel and livery stable, With the realignment of the valley's commercial life, which was reflected in the decline of Whitley's Ford and Argusville and the rise of Bieber, "Capt." Mooers in June, 1877, closed his general store and after a time became proprietor of the Modoc Hotel in Adin. The Riverside section of the valley, however, under the continuing arrival of settlers, soon made a substantial recovery. In 1880 the Brownell brothers of Bieber thought enough of the prospect to open a branch store on the river near Whitley's, managed by their twenty-two year old brother, Lester. Mooers now returned and started a hotel in competition to Whitley. The post office was reestablished on February 20, 1880, with Lookout now the official name of the settlement and T.P. Gray, the postmaster. "Lookout! we have surrendered 'Riverside' without recrimination," a resident wrote the *Hawkeye* in May. ". . .While the latter may be known as our dwelling place, the former is known as a healthy, thriving little village." Within the space of a dozen years time the community had experienced the full cycle of the rise and fall of a town.

Once begun, the settlement of Big Valley followed the customary pattern. The extensive land taking denoting a firmly established frontier came quickly on. With the broad gap between Fall River Valley and Surprise Valley finally closed, no portion of Lassen-Modoc suitable for settlement now remained unentered.



About The Author

Dr. William Newell Davis, Jr. is a native Californian, born in Kingsburg, California in 1915. He received his A.B. from Fresno State College, his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California at Berkeley.

During his stay in the Lassen-Modoc area, Dr. Davis taught in Bieber High School (1938-1940), and wrote a column for the *Big Valley Gazette* on the history of Big Valley.

During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Air Force, beginning with the rank of private and being discharged with the rank of captain.

Returning to his teaching career, Dr. Davis taught history at San Francisco Junior College, at the University of Missouri, and at the University of California at Berkeley, but found a third career with the California State Archives. For twenty-five years, until his retirement in 1980, he was historian and chief archivist for the State.

Dr. Davis is a life member of the Big Valley Historical Museum Association, a fellow of the California Historical Society, and a member of the State Bar of California and of the American Bar Association. He is a charter member of the Modoc County Historical Society.

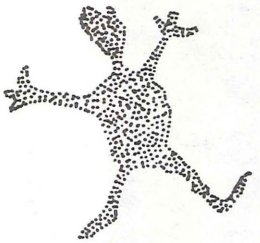
Also a family man, Dr. Davis has a wife, three daughters, and two grandchildren.

It is indeed an honor to have William Newell Davis, Jr. with us this year as our guest contributor.

His book *Sagebrush Corner*, from which the Big Valley article was reprinted, is the best-researched, best-written, and exhaustive work ever to appear on the early history of Modoc and Lassen counties.

Let this be a public thanks for Dr. Davis' allowing us to include an excerpt from his book in the 1984 *Modoc County Historical Society Journal.*

—Editor

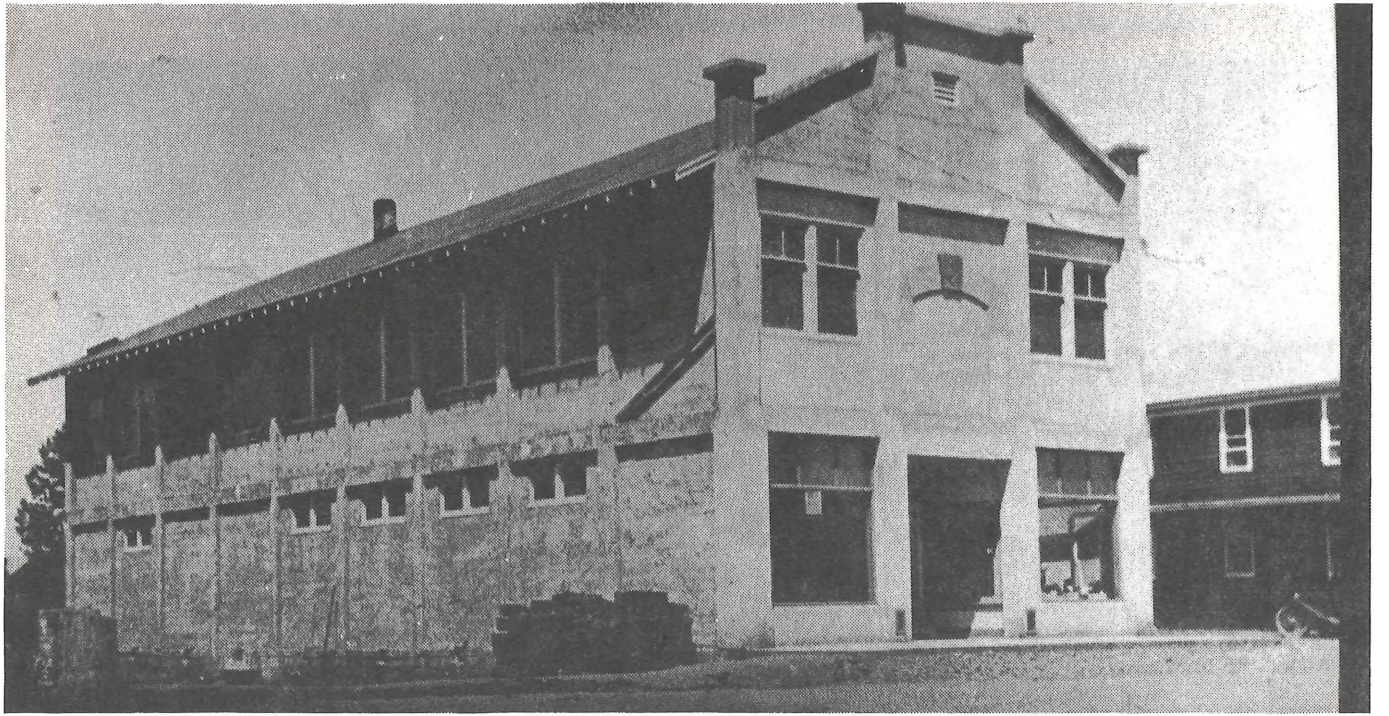


A BIG VALLEY PICTURE GALLERY

—Courtesy of the Modoc County Museum

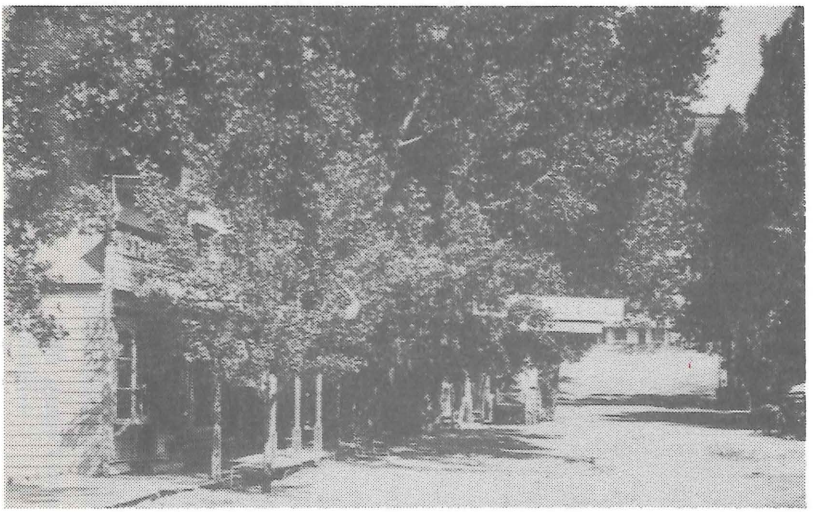
Adin Mill, November 17, 1891. Shepard and Niles, proprietors.
—Modoc County Museum Photo

Cowboys on the Snell Ranch, 1898. The building in the background is Washington District School.
—Modoc County Museum Photo



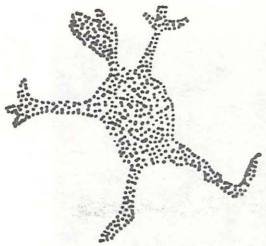
No date available for this portrait at Adin's Masonic Building. Auto at right indicates 1900s.
—Modoc County Museum Photo

Bassett Hot Spring, Big Valley, Lassen County, 1908.
—Modoc County Museum Photo



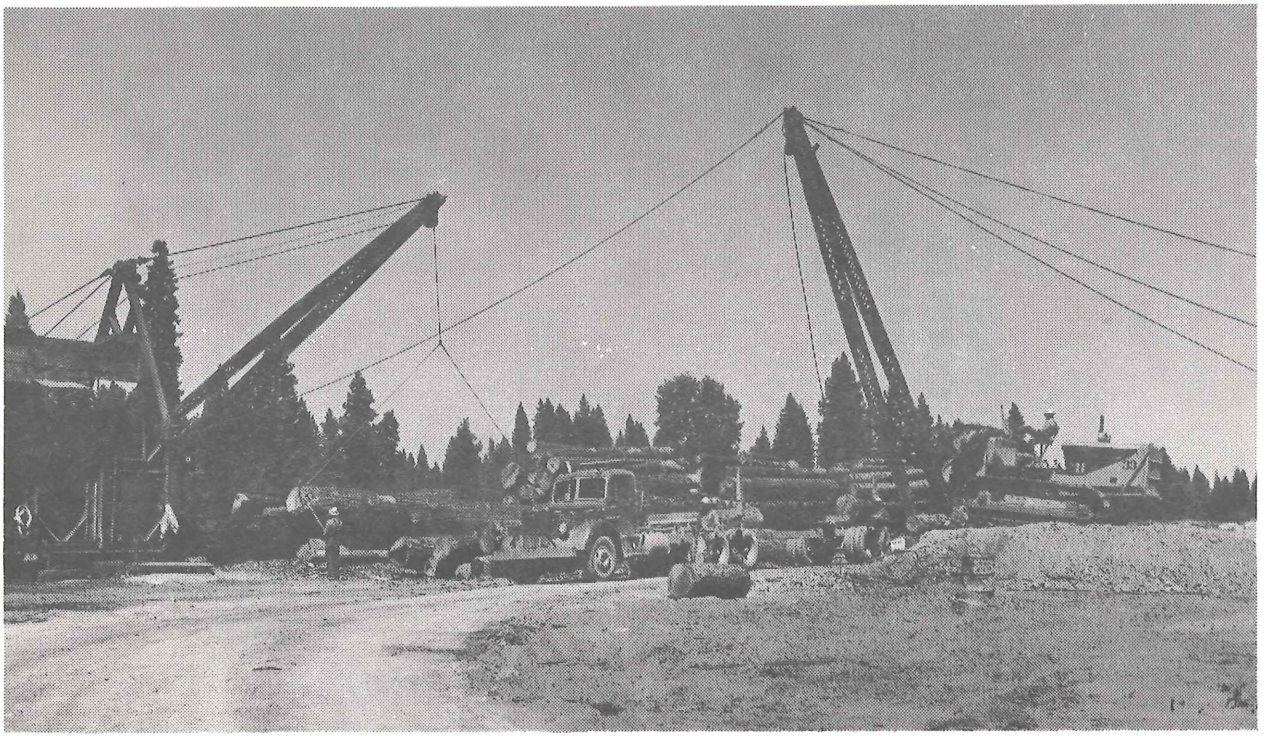
Adin's Main Street on a lush summer's day (top) and when the floods came (bottom), both 1907 photos.

—Modoc County Museum Photos



TIONESTA AND WEST-CENTRAL MODOC COUNTY
Its Life, Time, and Legacy

—Maurice O'Callaghan



Reloading operation (1955). McGiffert Self-Propelling Log Loader at left.
—Photo courtesy E.D. Zimmerman

TIONESTA AND WEST-CENTRAL MODOC COUNTY

Its Life, Time, and Legacy

by
Maurice O'Callaghan

Note: For the purposes of this writing the "Tionesta area" will include that part of Modoc County generally bounded by the present Lava Bed Road on the north, the Modoc-Siskiyou county line on the west, State Route 139 on the east, and the Long Bell area on the south. These boundaries will be breached as needed.

For the purpose of clarity names currently in common usage will be used.

The name "Tionesta" was applied to a large tract of timber land near the eastern base of Glass Mountain. The meaning of the word is lost in time, but was brought to Modoc from a virgin forest in Pennsylvania[1] by an outfit named the Tionesta Lumber Co.,[2] which had ownership of the tract. The pronounciation changed somewhat in its migration west from Tie-on-esta to Tee-on-esta.[3]

If myths of red-bearded men and men in armor are discounted, the first verifiable incursion into the area by non-Indians came sometime between 1820 and 1830, when trappers made a camp on the northeast side of Glass Mountain and left datable evidence of their sojourn.[4] The trappers were probably from the Hudson's Bay Co. out of Fort Vancouver, Washington. John Work, who named Pit River and Goose Lake, and Jedediah Smith, both had some

knowledge of the locale as early as 1832.[5] Work reported on the scarcity of fur bearers among the wildlife east of the Cascade-Sierran Ridge. Big game was so nonexistent that his party turned to slaughtering its horses for meat. (This was probably due to the almost total lack of available drinking water for miles and miles east of the mountain crests. This situation was somewhat alleviated when stockmen came on the scene and developed water catchments impercetive to use of the ranges).

The footloose John C. Fremont made a crossing of the volcanic tableland east of the mountains in 1846. He and his party, which contained Kit Carson and about 50 Delaware Indian scouts, traveled along the route later followed by the Great Northern RR. While in the area he named Tule Lake "Rhett Lake" and Timber Mountain "Excelsior Butte."

Following Fremont's expedition, the western edge of Modoc County (as it would be after 1874) was used as a corridor by "trappers, trailblazers, migrants, and gold seekers. . . ."[6]

In 1855, Lts. R.S. Williamson and Henry Abbot did a detailed study as they surveyed a possible railroad route to Oregon. Their work was highly accurate and covered all phases of the environment including the flora and fauna as well as the surface terrain and the geology, as they determined it.

At this stage in Modoc history no settlement had been established. It was, however, popular as a place to pass through. There was considerable movement east and west via the Applegate Trail and north and south on the California-Oregon Trail. The California-Oregon Trail followed Fremont, Williamson and Abbot, *et al.*, and intersected with the Applegate east of Tule Lake near the Oregon line.

Ft. Crook, in the Fall River Valley, was established in 1857, and added a modicum of security to passage through Modoc. It also laid the ground work for permanent settlements in northeast California. In the following few years several other military outposts were added to protect travelers and settlers.

Following a cycle of "feast and famine" of water in the Sacramento Valley in the early 1860s, as cattle, the money

crop, died in huge numbers from drowning in winter storms and floods and from starvation in summer drouths, ranchers looked back with interest at the Modoc meadows and fields of grass some had seen on their way to California. They began moving into the high country.

Surprise Valley, east of the Warner Range, became the center of population. Being part of gigantic Siskiyou County, its county seat was Yreka, a couple of hundred wagon trail miles west.

The route to Yreka was the Applegate Trail into Oregon, north of Tule Lake, then south on the "Yreka Cutoff."

The distance was shortened somewhat when a freighter named Tichnor built a road which crossed north of Glass Mountain to intersect the California-Oregon Trail near Timber Mountain. Tichnor could go north or south to carry freight to the settlements north of Tule Lake or south along Pit River. The Surpirse Valleyites could then turn off the Applegate near Clear Lake and join the Tichnor Road a few miles southwest. Tichnor's road was completed in time to be a handy supply route during the Modoc Indian War — 1872-73.

Its popularity and need as a way to the county seat was short-lived, however, as Modoc became a county in its own right and established its government offices in Alturas early in '74.

The road soon angled across the Devils Garden to meet the Red Bluff-Surprise Valley Road (Lassen Trail) near the hot springs (Kelley), and carried commerce to and from the growing population of the Pit River Valley.

The country south of Tichnor's road and east of the new county line didn't hold much attraction to people interested in settlement. It was pine forest growing from pumice soil. There was very little surface water and very few springs. The pumice sucked down the water that fell as rain or melted from the snow, and was reluctant to give it up.

Several milleniums characterized by periods of massive volcanic activity followed by periods of subsidence were involved in getting the Tionesta area to its present geologic condition.

It is part of Cascade-Sierran Volcanic Ridge which ". . .

extends from the Diamond Mountains on the easternmost fault axis of the Sierra, through Big Valley Mountains and the Medicine Lake Highlands on the Tableland, to an intersection with the Cascades at Mt. McLoughlin in Oregon."[7]

The Tionesta townsite is where the Medicine Lake Highlands and the Devils Garden Lava Platform meet. Volcanic activity was both eruptive and extrusive, which accounts for alternating layers of lava and pumice to a depth of at least two miles.

When Modoc County was young there was little activity in this western portion of the county. Then, in 1878 the Timber and Stone Act was passed and for a minimum of $2.50 an acre an individual could purchase 160 acres and ". . . appropriate it to his own exclusive use and benefit."[8]

Hi Brown, a long time employee and timber cruiser and buyer for T.B. Walker of the Red River Lumber Co., Westwood, Lassen Co., explained the process to the Modoc Council of Natural Resources at a meeting in Canby, July 27, 1949.

"Some of the natives who were familiar with lines and surveys, took parties out and located them on the timber claims for a fee of $75. The land offices were located at Susanville and Redding, California, and all during the spring, summer, and fall months the people rode horse-drawn buggies to these towns and filed on their claims. It was necessary to have four witnesses named, and two to appear when final proof was made seven weeks after filing. Notices had to be published seven consecutive times in the county newspaper. This cost $14. Then the Receiver and Register of the land office collected a fee of $10;. . .The claims were then purchased by Walker's agent, Mr. Chester L. Hovey, who made over a million dollars in his fees, as he in turn charged a commission of 10%. . . ."[9]

The claims eventually sold for $800 when Walker began buying in 1903. (Those who sold at that time probably did better than those who held their claims, because timber value didn't increase appreciably until WWII).

"Timber and Stone Claims" was not the only way to get government timber land. The Forest Lieu Selection Act of 1897—part of the Sundry Appropriation Act of 1897—made

possible the acquisition of large tracts. Simplistically, the Act provided that any tract within a public forest covered by a bona fide unperfected claim might be relinquished by a settler or owner who might select, in lieu, any tract of the same size on any land open for settlement. In many instances the settler or owner, particularly the railroads, sold their rights to lieu land by scrip.[10]

In 1898, T.B. Walker, then a lumberman in International Falls, Minnesota sent his logging superintendent, Frank Kline, to make an evaluation of west coast timber. Kline looked from British Columbia to Southern California. His report to Walker favored the ponderosa pine forests of Northern California. By 1912 Walker had title to some 900,000 acres of the finest timber stands in the north state to township 43.[11]

In 1912 T.B. Walker began the building of the Red River Lumber Co. mill and the town of Westwood in Lassen County.

About that time, Modoc consumption of lumber was on a decline, and as a result few of the local milling operations were active. Virtually every board sawed in the county was used in the county until the 1930s. The county's population plummeted from 1912 until well after World War I, so there was little demand.

The post World War I boom and the "Roaring Twenties" brought tremendous changes in the social and economic life of the whole USA. The country had jumped from the horse and buggy into the "tin lizzie" almost over night. Coal oil was being replaced by the electric wire as a source of light in small towns as well in the cities. Radios were displacing the Victrola phonograph as the home entertainment center, and after 1920 and the Eighteenth Amendment, speak-easies and moonshine replaced the neighborhood saloon.

There was optimism around, and a man from Kansas brought a lot to Modoc in the early '20s. William Pickering had lumber mills in Kansas and Texas, when he decided to try the timber of the west. He invested heavily in the western part of the county and bought a mill-site near Alturas. The Tionesta tract in Ranges 4, 5, and 6 MDM was part of that purchase.[12]

A hiatus followed the initial purchases while activity was focused on the construction of mill facilities on the Alturas property. Late in the '20s a portable mill was moved to the Tionesta tract to supply lumber for the mill construction.

This was a salvage operation to get something out of timber that had been damaged by the western pine bark beetle (*dendroctonus brevioonis*).[13]

The western pine bark beetle had been wreaking its devastation on Modoc forests since 1915, and had hit the Tionesta tract particularly hard, because it was dryer than most other forest in the county.[14] (20% had been killed, according to Forest Service estimates, for the entire county, between 1915 and 1935).

While little in the way of actual lumbering was being carried on in the county, the Southern Pacific and Great Northern railroads were laying the way for easier and more efficient harvesting of the forest crops.

1926 saw the S.P. take over the moribund Nevada, California, and Oregon Railway; begin a project to replace the narrow gauge rails with broad gauge track; and to consider a rail link that would connect the S.P. main line at Klamath Falls with the S.P. main line near Reno, Nev.[15]

Farther west the Western Pacific and the Great Northern preempted a 1917 survey made for the S.P. and began laying tracks from Keddie in the south and Klamath Falls in the north, that when completed would join those two rail networks.

An adjunct of, but with no official connection with the railroad construction was a string of bawdy houses, which followed the progress of the roads. The Timber Mountain Inn on the northwest corner of the mountain has been an enduring "landmark" of this phase of commercialism.

The "Natron Cutoff" which linked the S.P. Lines officially opened in September, 1930, in a ceremony at Hackamore Station on the Devils Garden.

Since the steam powered locomotives of the era required water to make the steam, the S.P. drilled a well at Perez siding and hit a good flow. Pumping facilities, a water storage tank, a man to run the pump, and a section crew were established there. Allen Meyers was the pumper for many years.

The availability of water was a boon to the area, as stockmen and other users could take advantage of it.

On the Great Northern line, progress was being made towards its planned junction with the W.P., although it was about a year behind the S.P. in planning and construction.

In June of '31, Ramon Anchordoguy, a sheepman from Red Bluff, shipped 3000 lambs from his range near Happy Camp Mountain to markets on the east coast by way of Klamath Falls and Portland. In July, 1½ million board feet of lumber in 50 box cars left the McCloud River Lumber Co. camp of Whitehorse and by the same route headed for St. Paul, Minnesota.[16]

The lumbering-logging picture became muddled in the Modoc area with the stock market crash in October 1929.

The Long Bell Lumber Co. a giant in the lumbering industry, was active west of the Cascade-Sierran Ridge and decided to try the eastern side on the fringes of the Medicine Lake Highlands and the Devils Garden, if a way could be found to get the logs to Weed for milling.

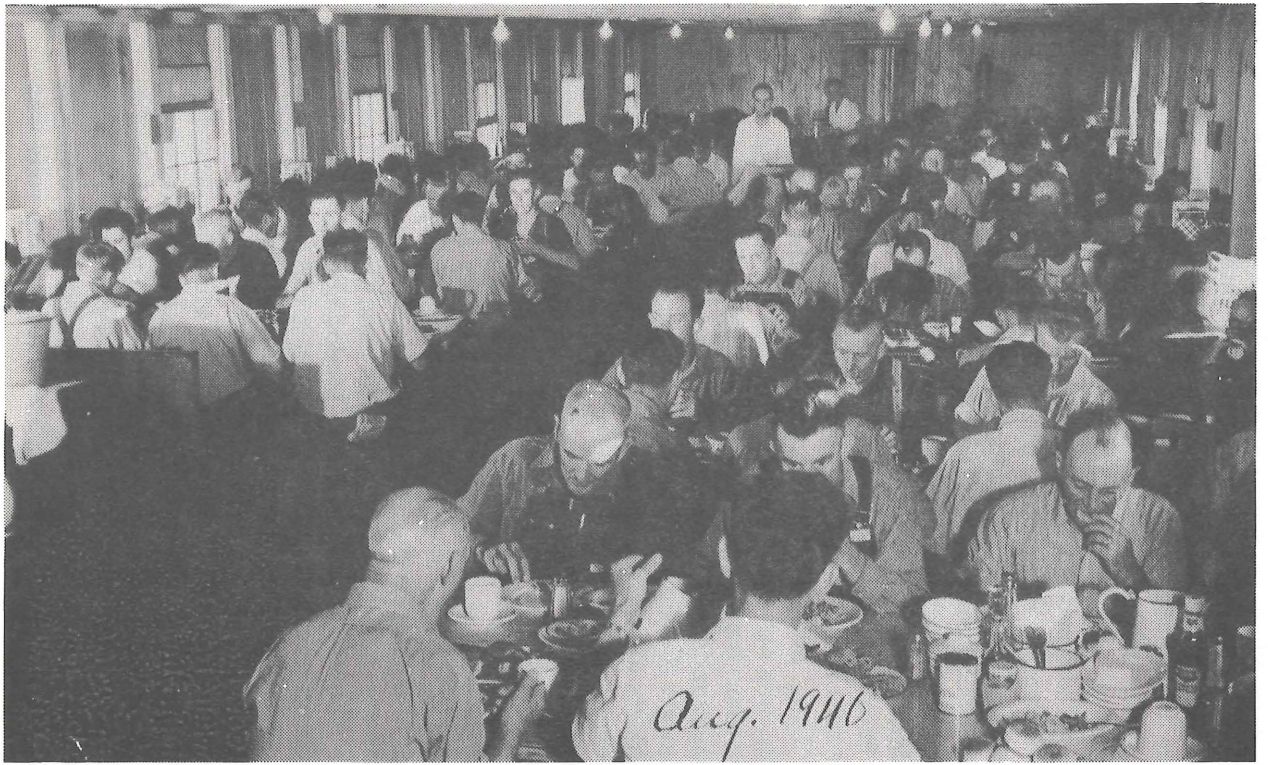
Engineers did find a route north of Glass Mountain using a low-level pass somewhat south of the Tichnor Road. Eighty six miles of Long Bell main line were laid to the "old" Camp 1, which began operation in 1928.

The old Camp 1 was built for 150 men. The company town of Tennant west of the mountains was family housing, and the logging camp "stag," the men returning home to Tennant and elsewhere on the weekends. It was a dry camp with all water being brought in in tank cars. Old Camp 1 was about a mile and a quarter inside Modoc County.

Old Camp was used until 1929, when it was moved about 12 miles south to what is called Long Bell Station on current maps.

A well was drilled at New Camp 1 to a depth somewhat over 400 feet. The drillers went through several alternating layers of solid rock and pumice. When water was reached it could be heard flowing at the bottom of the pipe.[17] Because of the alternating rock and pumice the casing of the well was not straight and occasional replacement of pump rods was necessary.

New Camp 1 was active until 1932, when it was



One wing of the Long Bell Lumber Co. cookhouse at Camp 1, 1940.
—Photo courtesy of Lowell N. Jones

temporarily closed for logging. It was rented to the Civilian Conservation Corp. until 1936.

While it was working, over 340,000 board feet of logs were shipped to the mill each working day.

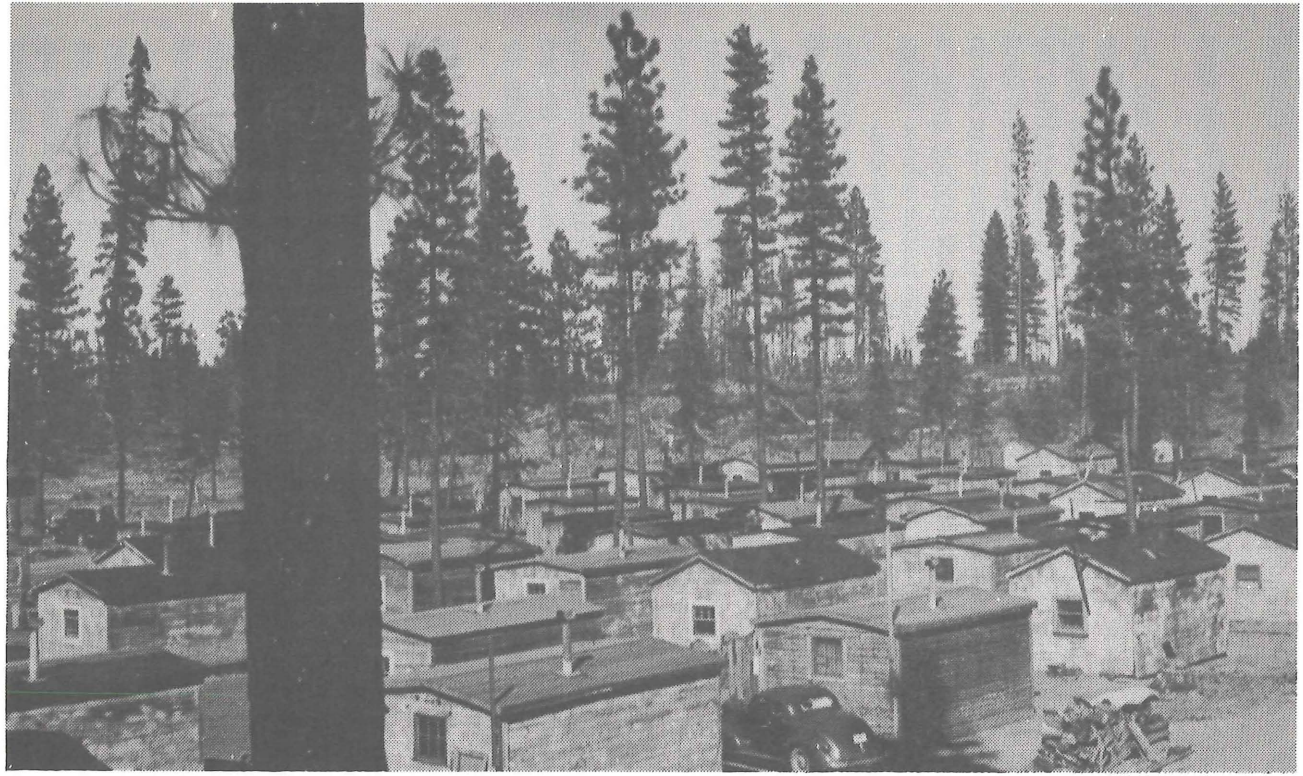
New Camp was within a State Game Refuge and no firearms were permitted in the camp. Mule deer had free run of the camp and were frequent visitors. The new camp was built with a 300 population in mind. It was electrified by generators and the cook house was refrigerated for food storage. After reopening for logging in '36, there were 240 in the logging crews and about 60 in the track laying gang, a half-dozen in the kitchen crew, and one nurse whose living quarters were strictly off-limits to the male workers.

Although new Camp 1 began logging operations again in '36, after the end of prohibition, no hard liquor was allowed in the camp. A box car of beer was brought in every week. Supplies for the cook house came in every week-day. During the period of rationing of meat in the years of WWII, meat for the tables was supplied from a herd of company-raised cattle grazed near Tennant.

The Long Bell Co. didn't own land east of the Cascade-Sierran ridge. It bought timber from the Walker interests, Pickering, and the U.S. Forest Service. The company traded privately owned land near Tennant for cutting rights to 346,000,000 board feet.

Besides the Long Bell main line from Camp 1 to its junction with the Southern Pacific main line at Leaf near Tennant, it laid and removed over 400 miles of track in Modoc County.

Long Bell used the rails as an intregal part of its logging operation. Temporary tracks were put down through the forests where the loggers felled trees for a quarter mile on each side of the tracks. The logs were brought to track-side where they were loaded on the flatcars by a unique piece of equipment called the McGiffert Self-Propelling Log Loader. "A steam-powered, self-propelled machine, the McGiffert was able to load railcars from both sides of the track on which it stood. When loading, its trucks were hoisted up under the cab floor permitting empty logging cars to pass through. The machine usually moved between loading sites



View of Long Bell Lumber Co. Camp 1. Two men occupied a cabin. At the height of occupancy 300 men lived in the camp. *—Photo courtesy E.D. Zimmerman*

under its own power, sometimes taking empty cars with it. . . .''[18](The Long Bell McGiffert is now at the Lake Superior Museum of Transportation in Duluth, Minn. Two others are on exhibit at the Collier Logging Museum at Collier Park on Highway 97 near Chiloquin, Oregon).[19]

In its 20 odd years of logging in Modoc County, Long Bell removed an estimated two billion board feet of ponderosa pine. Its logging ranged outward from Camp 1 almost to the Pit River at Crank Mountain, beyond Happy Camp Mountain and south to the Egg Lake country.

The men who did the logging came largely from the area. Besides those living at Tennant, about 40 reported in for work from around Goose Lake and Pine Creek and others came from Klamath Falls and vicinity.

A logging camp belonging to the McCloud River Lumber Co. and connected by rail to its milling facility at McCloud was established at Whitehorse. In the 1940 census Whitehorse had a population of 300.[20] It was a family camp, so not all were in the logging crews.

Whitehorse, like Camp 1, was just inside the Modoc County line. Approximately 10 miles beyond Whitehorse the McCloud River Railroad made the connection with the Great Northern.

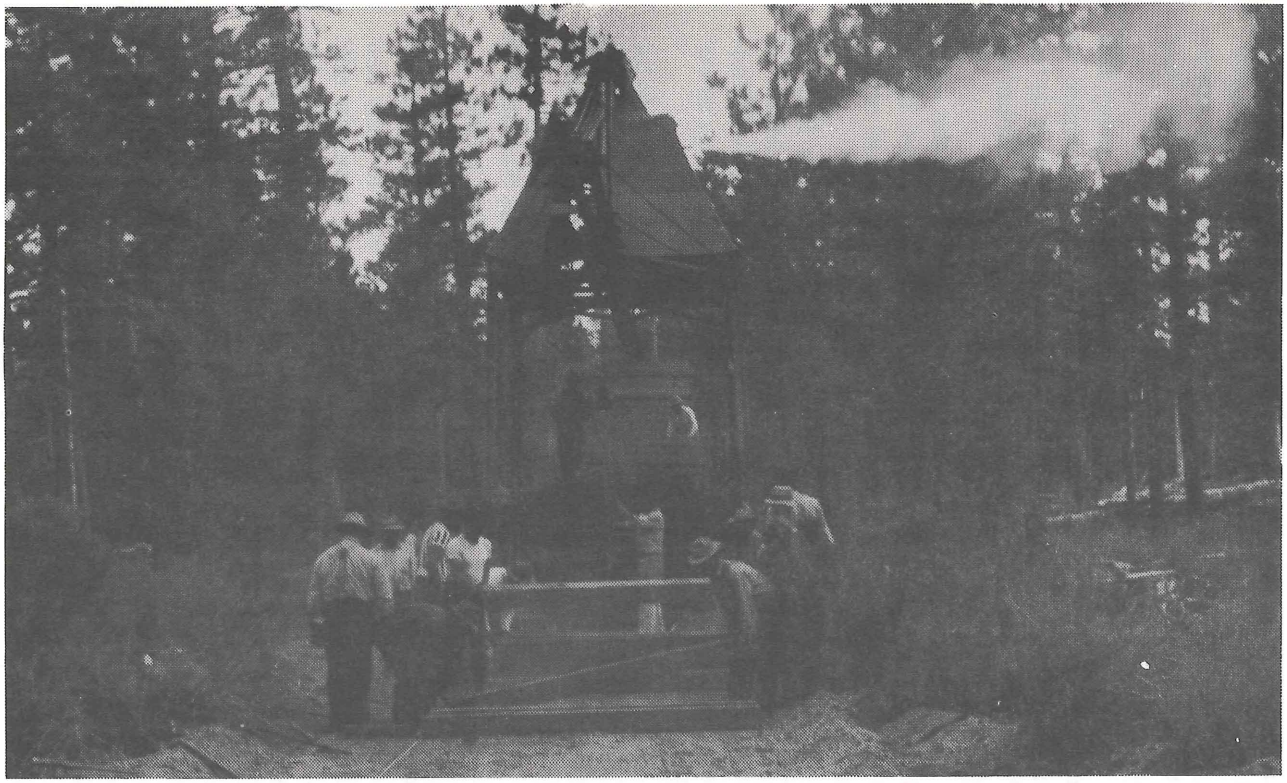
All things that came into the area were not as transient as the logging camps. A few came on a permanent basis.

Early in the 1900s a man named Albert James Grayson bought 160 acres from the Klamath Lake Land and Livestock Co. He held ownership until '27 when he sold to Nels and Flora May Fogle.[21] The Fogles operated a one-man saw mill at the foot of the north slope of Timber Mountain. Logs for the mill were bought from the U.S. Forest Service for about 50¢ a thousand board foot. It was beetle-damaged timber.[22]

The Fogles supplied lumber to many of the homesteaders who took up land in the Tulelake Basin in the '30s.[23]

The ''track followers'' acquired use of a portion of the property to ply their trade and were responsible for the Timber Mountain Inn.

With the end of railroad and highway construction and the end of Prohibition the Inn became a bar operated by C. ''Buster'' Burris and his friend Pearl. Following the death of



—Photo courtesy E.D. Zimmerman

Long Bell track gang lay rail line for logging crews in Modoc county forest. The machine is on tracks and carries ties and rails to be laid ahead of it. It was a semi-automatic operation with the ties and rails being passed to the men on the ground as needed. About a mile of track could be laid in a day. After logging was completed the procedure was reversed and track taken up at about the same rate.

Pearl, "Buster" sold to Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Hamilton, who moved the name and business to a location on State Route 139 near Perez. The original building is still in use as the Timber Mountain Store. A community of about 15 homes and businesses has grown along what must once have been part of the Tichnor Road east of the store.

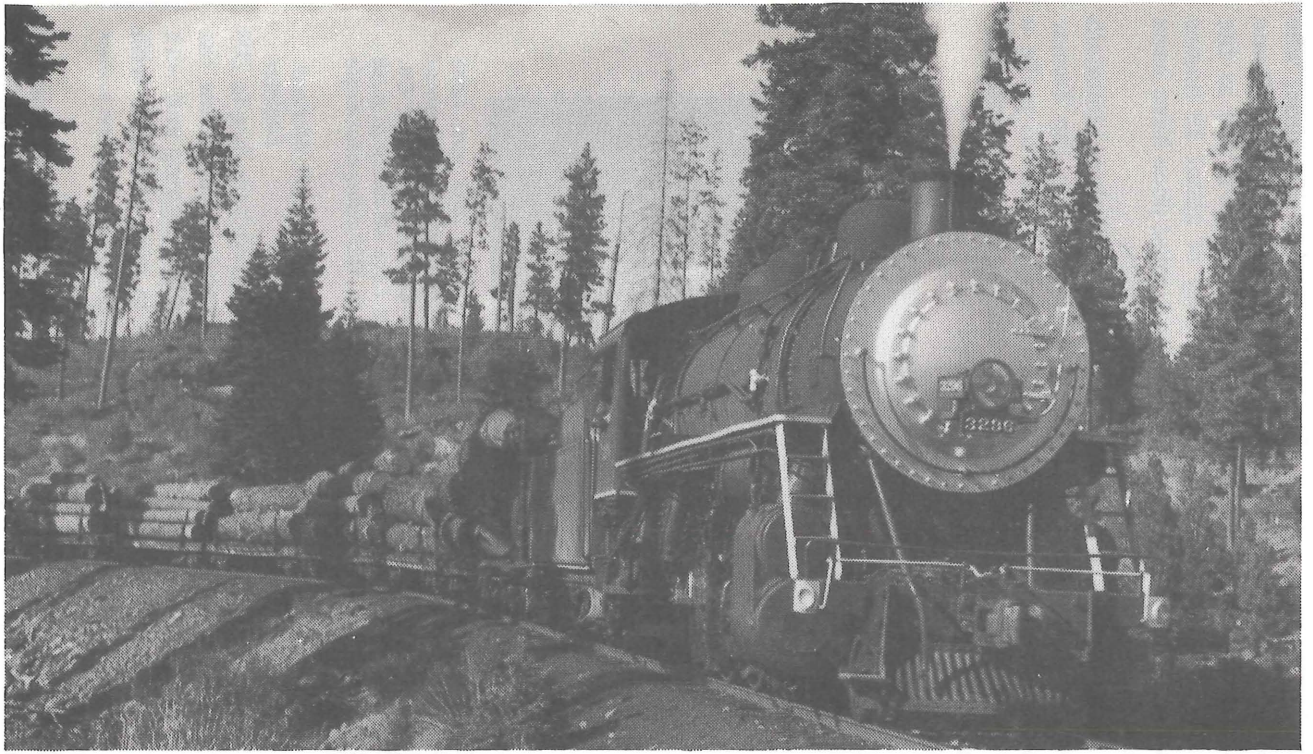
Meanwhile, back at the ranch—the "Timber Mountain Ranch" at the south end of the mountain was the Turner place, 160 acres that at least two families tried to make a living on with a few head of cattle and pigs. It was made different by the fact that it had a well.

Photo taken from tender of Loco #101, 3 water tank cars, Loco #100 coupled to 20 cars of logs on mainline and coupled to 25 cars of logs on west end of balloon track at Old Camp 1 in Modoc Co. Standing on the mainline, in the clear was Loco #8 ready to push caboose onto train and help boost up grade to 1013 siding near Eagle Butte. (1937-38)

—Photo and information furnished by Robert D. McLeod, Engineer

As the story goes, Turner and some hired help dug to 200 feet where the help protested the dangers so far below the surface and quit. Turner persevered at the digging and with hand tools and a windlass continued to over 300 feet, with the assistance of his wife and five daughters, to where water was found. This was in 1915.[24]

(Timber Mountain is the remnant of an extinct volcanic peak. When the well for the Tionesta school was drilled near



Pine logs headed from Modoc Co. to Long Bell mill in Weed.

—Photo courtesy of E.D. Zimmerman

the Timber Mountain store in the late '40s, 400 feet of almost solid rock was encountered).[25]

While the Turners still occupied the Timber Mt. Ranch, a daughter, Rosa, became the first fire look-out person on the mountain.

The Turners sold the ranch to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Estes who lived out their lives there, and the property, as so many such timber homesteads did, ended up as government land, in this case part of the national forest.

Beginning in 1904, various tracts in Modoc County were withdrawn from the public domain and made Forest Reserves. In 1908 the Modoc Forest Reserves were combined to make the Modoc National Forest.[26] However, a goodly portion in the northwest was not taken into the Forest until October 1920, when that "job was dumped into its lap. . . ." by presidential proclamation. This was the Doublehead District, and the last sizeable part of the public domain in California to be added to the National Forests.

The problems created by the "Black Friday" stock market crash and the onset of the (yet to be designated Great) depression, were increased when William Pickering died on April 15, 1930.[28] Work continued on the mill for a short time, then stopped without the leadership of Pickering and uncertainties in the money market.

In June of 1931, it was announced that James Shaw, a partner in Shaw-Bertram Lumber Co., of Klamath Falls, had purchased part of the Tionesta Tract at a price "regarded as a high one."[29] The purchase did not involve the Shaw-Bertram Lumber co., but only the Shaw Lumber Co.[30]

Shaw's Tionesta Tract is described as 25,000 acres more or less, with irregular boundaries. The Tichnor Road at the north, the Quaking Asp road on the south, Long Bell holdings west and "the desert" on the east. It did not include all of the "Tionesta Tract." A part of the tract in Range 6 MDM was not included.

When Shaw Lumber Company began cutting in the area the logs were shipped by Great Northern to mills in Klamath Falls.

Pickering's portable mill was put to use to produce 30 million feet of lumber a day. In the mid '30s the portable mill

Shaw Lumber Co. mill, boiler room, and shop.
—Photo courtesy Charles Reese.

First logging truck wreck in Tionest. Logs in background on Tionesta spur.

—Photo courtesy Charles Reese

burned and was replaced with a double cut band saw with gang.

During this time the logging camp was becoming a community, so that by the 1940s census over 700 lived among the pine trees, and it was the second largest town in the county.

Most of the housing was of board and batten construction. One count, before it reached its maximum population, indicated two cottages, (management housing) plant and company offices, forty-four 3 and 4 room houses, one hundred-fifty 1 and 2 room houses, a two room school, a post office, a store, a commissary, cook house, and bath house.

Electric power had been brought to Tionesta by the California, Oregon Power Co. (Copco), and the buildings were electrified. Water was piped to the buildings but there was no septic system other than outhouses (a not unusual situation in the '30s).

No information was available on the well that furnished the water for the houses and mill pond other than it was 580 feet deep and had a crooked hole, so it, as the one at Long Bell Camp 1, was subject to occasional down time to replace pump rods.

Logs were taken from the Tionesta Tract and from Forest Service lands, and those of the Red River Lumber Co. (Walker). The brunt of logging was done in the Hollenbeck area, where one crew member recalls loading out 23 flat cars a day, day-in and day-out.

Both Shaw Lumber and Long Bell crews worked 5 day weeks, the year around, and seldom shut down because of the vagaries of the weather.

The climate of Modoc has been the same for about 200 years. In the Tionesta Area north annual rainfall has averaged about 13 inches, while farther south it was somewhat more. This is probably the influence of Glass Mountain and the Medicine Lake Highlands which rise to over 7,000 feet and create a rain-shadow on the lee side of the ridge. Also, most of the early years of activity in the timberlands were the "drouth years" which lasted through the '30s and early '40s. Robert "Bob" McLeod, who engineered the Long Bell trains for 20 plus years, recalls very few shutdowns because

Charles Reese and party return from hunting trip near Mud Lake, 1938.

—Photo courtesy Charles Reese

Burning slash and pine beetled timber at Tionesta (c) 1937.

—Photo courtesy Charles Reese

of storms. The longest was about two days.[31]

However, on one occasion a storm came down from the Highlands to where the Long Bell men were logging. They started back to camp early, but ran into drifts the train couldn't push through and the men couldn't shovel out. They were stranded about six miles from camp and had to abandon the train and follow the tracks on foot as best they could to camp. All 150 made it back safely while the train crew stayed with the engine to keep the steam up.

Another snow storm swooped down on the town of Tionesta one February day in 1938. It laid down three feet of snow on the level and yards more in drifts. It traveled east and closed the road to the highway and stranded many motorists traveling on 139.

Thomas Moulton, concerned about his wife who was returning from Klamath Falls, put on a pair of snowshoes he was able to borrow (and with which he had had no experience) and made his way 8 miles to Perez where he found his wife and about 30 stranded travelers in the schoolhouse. Men from the CCC camp at Dry Lake a few miles north on the highway had brought succor in the form of food and blankets to help the travelers weather the storm. Charles Reese, a gang saw and shovel operator, was also caught in the storm and took refuge at the schoolhouse. It took three days for the crew from Tionesta to open the road. The highway was passable the next day.

The Shaw operation continued to grow at Tionesta with the additions of a planer mill and box factory and upgrading of the sawmill. In the neighborhood of 400 were employed.

The camp became a town with a post office, a two-room elementary school, a branch of the county library, a baseball team, and a dramatic group.

The Perez school was closed and one started in the population center of the Grandview School District, Tionesta. The youngsters of high school age were transported daily to Modoc Union H.S. in Alturas. As many as sixty-six attended the elementary school.

The logging operations ranged as far south as the Pit River at Turner Creek and east beyond Hackamore.

Logging was directed by King Grey, a legend in his own

Tionesta cabin in winter.
—Photo courtesy of John Boorman

time, variously described as the best woods boss, ever; a man who could get things done; a man in the John Wayne mold.

It appears that J.R. Shaw crews were built around or with men who had worked for him at Shaw-Bertram in Klamath Falls. Shaw, son of a lumberman, had spent his life in the industry.

Tionesta worked through the years of the Great Depression. It was a sort of enclave of prosperity surrounded by unemployment that added money and hope to Modoc County and to Klamath Falls.

Merchants regularly brought wares to the camp. Kirkpatrick and Reeder cashed pay checks monthly and sold clothing, literally by the truck load.

Klamath Falls was the trading center for the Tionesta community, although the company did all business possible within Modoc County.

Klamath Falls offered a diversity of activities and merchandise plus several theaters and recreational outlets. A day of shopping, a visit to a doctor or dentist, an evening with Buck Jones or Charlie Chaplin, and a night at the Hall Hotel were eagerly looked forward to family outings.

A series of fires, the bane of lumber companies, knocked out Tionesta's manufacturing capabilities in the mid-40s. It was decided not to rebuild.

Some of the tract was donated to the Modoc Lava Beds Monument, the land sold to the National Forest for stumpage elsewhere, and the Finney Logging Co. took over the townsite.

Some of the buildings were moved to Tulelake homesteads but most were relocated to Bieber by Finney and later moved again to a location near McCloud called Chiloquin Logging Camp.[32]

Long Bell Camp 1 continued in operation until 1953.

An institution which predates almost all others in the area is the California Dept. of Food and Agriculture's Plant Quarantine Station on 139.

Originally built at the California line near Malin, Oregon, in 1929, it was relocated to its present site in 1934 or '35. (The first main road from Oregon came south from Malin. It

was after 1932 that the highway took its present route across the former lake bed and past Tulelake to Oregon).

An outbreak of the Mediterranean fruit fly in Florida in 1928, promoted California to close its borders to imported fruits and vegetables. Several cottages were built to house the inspection crews and their families. The station was "manned" around the clock.

The bitterbrush areas on the Medicine Lake Highlands and western Devils Garden were popular sheep ranges particularly, after trucks became part of the transportation scene, and water could be hauled to meet the needs of the flocks. *The History of the Modoc National Forest* credits this innovation and the use of portable troughs and tanks to Raymond (Ramon) Anchordoguy in 1916. A few others brought sheep in from the Sacramento Valley and from Tulelake and Merrill, and Mike and Gerry Geaney from Canby.

With the closing of the mills and resulting loss of population the Tionesta School and post office moved to Timber Mountain. With subsequent decline, the Grandview School District became part of the Newell Unified S.D. and the students were bused to Newell. The post office closed in 1955.

Author's note:

While I was gathering material in this brief study, twenty or more people from the area and time were contacted through letters, telephone, and personally. A theme that appeared in almost every instance was that the time spent among the pines was the best time of their lives.

A loyalty and admiration for J.R. Shaw, who undertook this project when all around the country other businesses were falling apart, was noted from among those who had worked or lived at Tionesta.

I would like to thank the people who contributed to this effort with information, suggestions, leads, and encouragement.

Maurice O'Callaghan

Notes

[1] *Alturas Plaindealer,* June 16, 1931.
[2] Laurence L. Shaw, conversation, 1984.
[3] *Ibid.*
[4] William S. Brown Sr., *History of the Modoc National Forest,* San Francisco, 1945. p. 12.
[5] Robert W. Pease, *Modoc County (A Geographic Time Continuum on the California Volcanic Tableland,* University of California Publications in Geography, Berkeley & Los Angeles, Calif., 1965, p. 55.
[6] *Ibid.,* p. 9.
[7] *Ibid.*
[8] Jerry A. O'Callaghan, *The Disposition of the Public Domain in Oregon,* U.S. Govt. Printing Office, 1960, p. 74.
[9] A talk made by Hi Brown to Modoc Council on Natural Resources, Canby, Calif., July 27, 1949, from a copy in possession of E.D. Zimmerman.
[10] O'Callaghan, *op. cit.,* pp. 79-80.
[11] Hi Brown, *loc. cit.*
[12] *Alturas Plaindealer,* June 1931.
[13] Wm. Brown Sr., *op. cit.,* p. 12.
[14] Conversation with E.D. Zimmerman, logging superintendent Long Bell Lumber Co. & Correspondence with L.L. Shaw, 1984.
[15] Pat Barry, "A Layman's History of the N. C. & O. Railway," *The Journal of the Modoc County Historical Society,* 1982.
[16] *Alturas Plaindealer,* July 7, 1931.
[17] Conversations with E.D. Zimmerman, Lowell N. Jones, Ferguson, Robert McLeod formerly with Long Bell Lumber Co., 1984.
[18] Brochure from Lake Superior Museum of Transportation, Duluth, Minn.
[19] *Ibid.*
[20] Pease, *op. cit.,* p. 114.
[21] Modoc County Recorder's Office.
[22] Conversation with Walter Fogle, son of Nels and Flora May Fogle, 1984.

[23] Letter from Helen Coley, pioneer farmer, Tulelake, to the writer.
[24] Wm. Brown Sr., *op. cit.*, p. 74.
[25] Conversations with Perry Hawkins, Clerk of Grandview School Dist. Board of Directors at the time, and John Boorman, a student at the time, 1984.
[26] Wm. Brown Sr., *op. cit.*, p. 26.
[27] *Ibid.*, p. 27.
[28] *Alturas Plaindealer*, Apr. 15, 1930.
[29] *Alturas Plaindealer*, June 16, 1931.
[30] Conversation with L.L. Shaw, 1984.
[31] Letter from Robt. McLeod to the writer.
[32] Correspondence from Juanita Brown James.
[33] Correspondence from Howard R. Ingham, Program Superivisor, Pest Exclusion Division of Plant Industry, Calif. Dept. of Food and Agriculture.

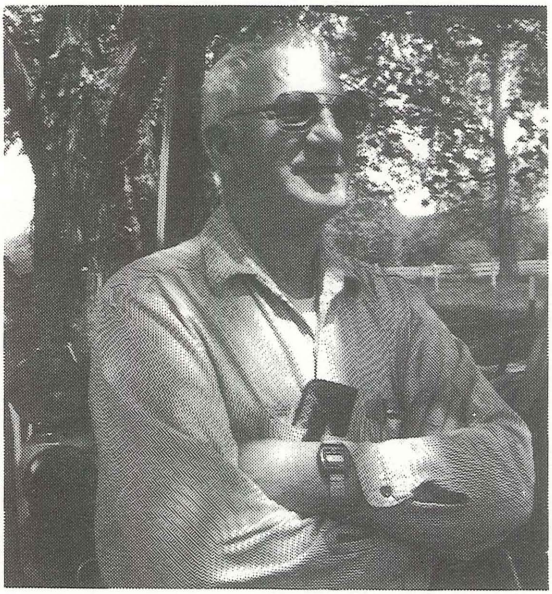
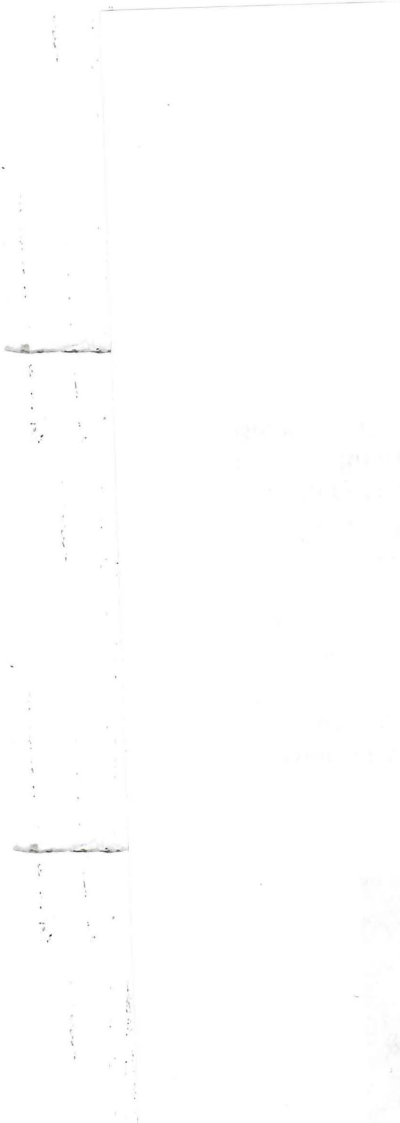


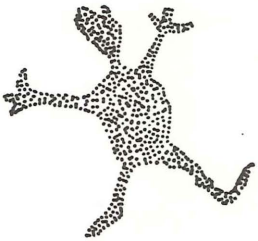
Photo by Joe Knowles

About The Author

Maurice O'Callaghan has been in Modoc County for about 42 years—first near Tulelake where he became familiar with the area written about—and for the last 34 years at Ft. Bidwell, all in livestock production. For a short period he attended the University of Oregon and received a Bachelor's degree in history.

He has been involved in the community through participation in the Ft. Bidwell Fire Department, the Ft. Bidwell Cemetery District Board of Directors, the Ft. Bidwell School District Board, Surprise Valley Joint Unified School District Board, and the Modoc District Fair Board.





BRICKS

—Lee Juillerat

Acknowledgement—The following article was reprinted from the April 12, 1981 issue of the Klamath Falls *Herald and News* by permission of Lee Juillerat.

BRICKS

by
Lee Juillerat

Back in the late 1930s Hank Free devised a scheme.

While covering the rugged countryside near Big Glass Mountain, he located some pumice mining claims. Some old-timers still talk about Free in manners that make fiction hard to distinguish from fact. Some tell of Free's attempts to collect fees from people moving pumice over his claim, and, if no money was forthcoming, of his stringing barricade cables on trees.

Other stories have Free posting no trespassing signs and wielding shotguns while defending his claims.

"He was a corker, that fella," says Wendell Smith, one of the three men who own what has proven to be the outgrowth of Free's scheme.

Using his pumice claims as a source, Free opened the area's first light-weight concrete building block manufacturing, or pumice block plant, in Tionesta in the '30s. Eventually the plant was brought out by the Borman Brothers in the early 1940s.

Remembrances are hazy, but in the fall of 1946 five men—Roy Gordeckor, Bert Stewart, Harvey Holmquist and Martin and Nilo Hyytinen—formed a partnership, bought the Tionesta plant and moved it about 28 miles south of Tulelake just off Highway 139.

Why there? Because of its proximity to Big Glass Mountain, the source of pumice, one of the aggregate components

they planned to use in making pumice blocks. Why pumice? Because more pumice is used in making blocks than all other components combined.

Initially the pumice was purchased for use in manufacturing block, and, for two years, processed through a hand-operated machine.

Operations, with refinements, went smoothly until June 11, 1953, when a fire razed the plant. A year later Nilo Hyytinen bought out his remaining partners, installed new equipment and renamed the business Glass Mountain Brick.

In 1953 the plant was incorporated as Glass Mountain Block, Inc. Its owner bought the Long Haul Claim from Perry Hawkins for a guaranteed pumice supply.

Over the years a well was drilled, three residences built, grounds improved, and naturally, the plant constructed and equipped with improved machinery. Mining claims were claimed on four sites. At the time the plant owners planned to use the claims one by one over the years.

The plant eventually received a new name—Klamath Brick & Block, Inc.

In 1967 Hyytinen merged his company with Klamath Falls Brick and Tile Company, then an established clay brick and clay tile manufacturing company headquartered in Klamath Falls. The name was changed to its existing Klamath Falls Brick and Tile.

The thre present (1981) owners, Wendell, William B. and Richard Smith bought out Hyytinen in 1972.

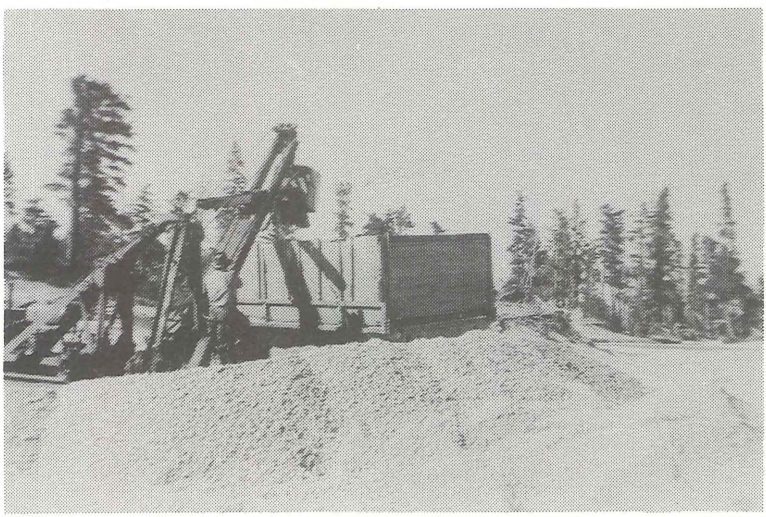
According to the Smiths, the plant represents an investment worth more than $1 million, and part of that investment stems from the company's mining claims, which insure the plant's continuing operation.

The mining claim history dates back to December, 1935, when a Volcanic Products Corporation had claims on 3,411 acres. Most were later bought by Roy Fouch, Sr. Fouch built a crushing and screening plant on the claim. Some of the claims were combined and renamed, others mined between 1946 and 1949 by Paul Thompson, who mined and sold several thousand cubic yards of pumice.

Fouch sold the claims to Glass Mountain Block in 1969.

The Long Haul Claim was located in May, 1950, by Perry

Hawkins and seven other people. Hawkins mined the claim in the summer of 1954 and sold pumice to Borman Brothers. Pumice was delivered to the Tionesta mill, where the Bormans operated a block plant. Hawkins eventually sold the Long Haul Claim to Glass Mountain Block in 1958 and the claim was mined through 1975.



Clarence Boorman mining a pumice claim on Glass Mt., early '50s.
—Photo courtesy of John Boorman

In recent years, the company has been mining the 60-acre Claim 6-C and the former John Madsen Claim.

Over the years several well-known Klamath Basin residents have held claims on Glass Mountain. Among the claimants have been Free, Fouch, Madsen, Cal Peyton, George Christy, Perry Hawkins, J.C. Hawkins, Ben Kielsmier and Loyd Delap.

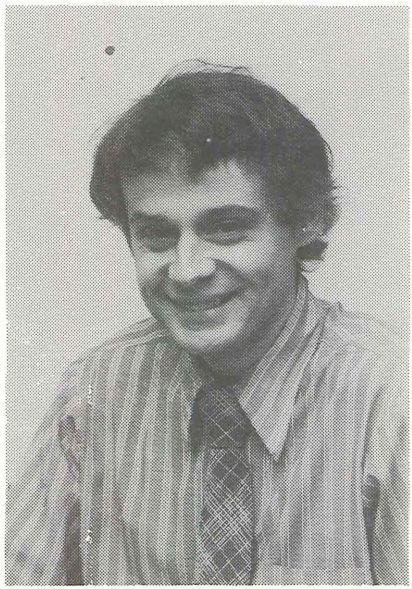
Production at the plant was strong in the late 1970's. In 1978 the pumice brick plant made 1.4 million standard blocks.

"Primarily we are associated with the housing industry and it hasn't come back very much," explains Wendell Smith of the decline.

Most recently the plant has emphasized the production of blocks used for commercial purposes. Blocks are frequently

used for housing foundation, especially split-level homes because the pumice is an efficient insulator.

Things have changed since Free began his far-sighted scheming about 45 years ago. And it's probably fair to say the series of owners owe a debt to Free. After all, it was Free who laid the business's foundation.



About The Author

Lee Juillerat is the regional editor for the Klamath Falls *Herald and News*, in which the preceding article originally appeared.

He learned about Modoc County—especially Fandango Pass and Surprise Valley—while attending San Jose State University, where he earned a degree in journalism, from a college friend who was a seasonal fire fighter for the Modoc National Forest.

His many Modoc visits have included cattle roundups with the Alkali Cattle Company, backpacks into the South Warner Wilderness, evenings at hot springs, interviews with a wide range of Modoc buckaroos, business people, artists, honey makers, and meals at the Fort Bidwell Fire Department Barbecue.

Juillerat is co-author of the book, *Crater Lake—Story Behind the Scenery.*

PORTRAIT OF A PIONEER: H.C. WATSON, DAIRYMAN

—Ann Odgers

H.C. Watson, 1864-1945, and his wife, Mattie P.Watson, 1878-1958. The couple were married September 22, 1892. Their daughters Rowena, Leona, and Mildred grew up in Big Valley and attended school in Washington School District.

—Modoc County Museum Photo

PORTRAIT OF A PIONEER
H.C. Watson—Pioneer Dairyman

by
Ann Odgers

Hugh Caspian Watson arrived in Modoc County in the year 1886 at the age of twenty-two. Previous to this, he had gained some experience as an apprentice cheese-maker in New York state, but had, in his words, ". . . absolutely no experience in the fundamentals of dairying."

His first attempts at dairying came in the spring of 1889 when, at a place called Keeny Flat about five miles south of Happy Camp in Modoc County, he got together 40 head of "so-called" dairy cows and began dairying in earnest. The following is Mr. Watson's own account of this experience:

"Most of the cows had to be roped and tied to milk them. We set the milk in shallow pans, churned by hand, packed the butter in firkins, covered some with brine, expecting to ship it out in the fall. Things went fairly well until the grass and water dried up, and the weather got hot. The butter melted and had to be sold for soap grease. The cattle scattered over the mountains.

"This experience cost me all that I could make by cutting wood, working in saw mills, and in the Bieber flouring mill for five years to pay up my debts. I learned from this lesson that a man, to dairy successfully, must have an abundance of feed the year round, plenty of water and a place to keep his cattle where they will be constantly under his observation. He must have proper equipment for the manufacturing of

dairy products and a suitable place for storage of same."

And so, in 1902, Mr. Watson began his dairying career anew, but this time with many valuable lessons under his belt. Eventually, though he experienced other business hardships and disappointments, he came to manage the McArthur Cheese Factory, the Lookout Cheese Factory, the Lake City Cheese Factory, the Surprise Valley Creamery, the Alturas Creamery, and Adin's Cheese Factory. Various businessmen, including Mr. Watson, who had financial holdings and stocks in these different plants, eventually incorporated them all under the name "Mountain Valleys Dairy Products Incorporated."

As the final touch to H.C. Watson's long and illustrious dairying career, he bought out all other stockholders of Mountain Valleys, Inc. and finally became the sole owner and operator of the company. He received many gold medals in the western states for his products, as well as a coveted silver medal from Syracuse, New York.

H.C. Watson sold Mountain Valleys, Inc. to Vince Coppedge in September, 1944, who then changed the name to Mountain Lily Dairy. Mr. Watson died in 1945, but left behind a rich dairy history that touched almost every resident of Modoc County from 1900 to 1950.

H.C. Watson's Bieber Cheese Factory
—Modoc County Museum Photo

MEMORIES OF LITTLE HOT SPRINGS VALLEY—AN ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPT

—by Mazella Coe, with her Grandson,
Hiram Oilar, age 19.

MEMORIES OF LITTLE HOT SPRINGS VALLEY

The following transcript of an interview, a dialogue between Mazella Coe and one of her grandsons, Hiram Oilar, is something new for the *Modoc County Historical Society Journal.* Transcribed oral histories have appeared before, in the "Pioneer Portrait" section of the *Journal,* but "Memories of Little Hot Springs Valley" is the first in a hoped-for series of oral history interviews and articles by young people, amateur historian/writers. It is hoped that we may find a young contributor to the *Journal* each year henceforth.

—Editor

ORAL HISTORY OF
MAZELLA GOOCH OILAR JENNINGS COE

Mazella: My name is Mazella Agnes Coe now. My name was Mazella Agnes Gooch to begin with. I was married to Leonard Oilar for thirty-seven and-a-half years and then I was married to Joe Jennings for 6 years and he passed away and then I married Jess Coe in 1970, the 18th of August.

Hiram: What's the location that you are presently living at? What's this location?

Mazella: This here's the old Pine Grove School House, Shasta County.

Hiram: What is your present age?

Mazella: Eighty.

Hiram: How old were you when you arrived in the Valley?

Mazella: Thirteen, or no I wasn't quite thirteen. We came over in May and I was thirteen in June.

Hiram: Why did you come to the valley?

Mazella: Because my father had a ranch in the valley for years and years, and I don't know, for 30 years he never lived there so he decided we'd moved around a lot and he decided to move to Little Hot Springs Valley so us kids could go to school.

Hiram: Was that your first year of school?

Mazella: No, it wasn't my first year of school. First time I went to school was in Mt. Shasta, which was Siskiyou at that time.

Hiram: Where exactly did you settle in Little Hot Springs Valley? I mean, what was the exact place?

Mazella: Well, I think it was the (*Hinkers?*) place. I'm not sure. That was before, that was the man that homesteaded it. I'm not certain.

Hiram: The (*Hinkers?*) place?

Mazella: The (*Hinkers?*) place. I think that's what it was. I'm not sure. Hazel Would know, 'cause she lived with Papa a lot more than I did and remembered all those things. We lived at the (*Stigger?*) place when we first came. That belongs to Lorenzens now, down between Snider's and where Nettie lives now.

Hiram: Can you tell me again how Little Hot Springs Valley got its name of Day and how they changed it from Little Hot Springs to Day?

Mazella: Well, it was Little Hot Springs Valley and then Pete Lorenzen got the post office in there. They tried to get the post office when he was a young man and he used to drive cattle through the country. Drove a cattle herd from (Bers?) mine and was going to settle in Little Hot Springs Valley so he bought. I think he bought a place in there and so he said, well it seemed more like *night* and they never had no mail at all, you know. Then they got the stage coach and then they had mail every day. They said that seemed like day. So they called the post office Day. And then the hunters got to coming in there later years when they found out there were so many deer in the country. Hunters came in there and of course the post office was Day. Well they started calling it Day and when the Forest Service went through they re-named everything. They re-named different peaks and springs and everything like that. They named the Valley "Day." And they named the whole bench Day, clear down here is the Day Bench that goes clear up through. And where the deer migrate in the winter time. Now anywhere is all along Day Road, you know, it's all Day.

Hiram: So it was mainly because of the deer. . . you've got it that it changed when the hunters came in and everything and they went back and saw the post office named Day. That's good. What was a normal day in your life like? What was a normal day like in the summer? A normal day like in the fall, in the winter and the spring? In the summer, first.

Mazella: My life was mostly play, I guess. I helped Mama with all the work and I had to carry water when we first came there. I didn't do too much studying or anything. I just ran around and played and helped my mother do wash until I was nine years old. Washed clothes on the washboard and I had to carry water. We didn't have water like people have now-a-days. You had to heat your water outside or on the stove to do your washing and you had to wash on a scrub board and you used lye soap to wash with. You didn't have fancy detergents to take the dirt out of the clothes. You had to wash it out and boil it out and hang the clothes out and dry them on the solar system. You know, that's the clothes line. That's the way we dried the clothes. I don't know, when I was just a young girl, well, I wasn't sixteen yet, I went over to cook for my father's sawmill and I cooked for the men that summer. The summer I became sixteen I cooked for four or five to eight to ten men all summer and I did my mother's and father's washing and I washed for the mill crew all on a washboard. And cooked and did everything. Carried my water in. I'd get up early in the morning and run down to the mill and start the old boiler fire up and get the water hot so they'd have steam to saw lumber with.

Hiram: When you had your kids then what did you do? What kind of things did you do then? Did you can fruit?

Mazella: Oh, yeah. We put up lots of fruit. And we had. . . the kids were little, well, before I was twenty-four

years old I had six children. Ed was born in May and I was twenty-four in June, so now I had six little kids and, I don't know, it didn't seem to me that they weren't as much bother as kids are now-a-days. I don't know, they played around and I always made them mind. I told them not to do something. I saw that they didn't do it. If they did, they got their butts spanked.

Hiram: Spare the rod and spoil the child.

Mazella: They helped each other, my kids always helped each other. Dorothy was a regular old mama. She looked after kids, ran errands. When she was 4 years old she ran errands all the time for me. Got to the storehouse and got me the butter or milk or anything. Just kept her going. She helped me when I had them hay hands and harvest hands there to cook for. Dorothy used to help me a lot with work when she was a little thing and of course, when they went to school they got to school the best way they knew how. They drove a team to school for awhile, and some rode horseback. It was four miles nearly to school. And in summertime. They had school in summer—started in March, ended November. They had to ride the horses or walk and carry their lunch pails back and forth from school. It was really hot going down that road there all the way, didn't have any shade. They were in boiling sun from the time they left the ranch 'til they got home at night. Really a hot walk, I'm telling you.

Hiram: Would you describe one day in the fall? What would one day be like? Let's say, when you were twenty-six years old. What would one day you would go through be like? During the fall?

Mazella: Well, let's see. In the fall while we were canning we'd put up, well, sometimes we'd go buy six or eight hundred pounds of peaches and then the whole family would just get in and peel peaches and work. I'd always put them in the jars and put the lids on and all the kids and daddy helped peel

the peaches and pit them and get them ready. Then we'd peel pears—we'd all peel pears, put them up and we made lots of dried corn and we'd put up green beans.

Hiram: Did you get a lot of the fruit and stuff from your garden? Get vegetables from your garden?

Mazella: When Grandpa Oilar had the ranch down there he had peaches and plums. We went out every year and hunted wild plums. We made lots of wild plum jam. We bought plums and made jam and went and picked blackberries and made blackberry jam, jarred up blackberries and made jelly.

Hiram: Did you buy stuff a lot or did you trade stuff—like, did you trade some of the stuff you raised on the farm?

Mazella: No, I never did.

Hiram: You bought it?

Mazella: Yes, when we bought peaches. . . except that peaches were cheap those days. One time, I don't know what year it was, but anyway, we had quite a few little kids then, about eight, I guess. It was during the depression and there was a fella came up there with a load of apricots. He had the back of the pick-up loaded with the most beautiful apricots you ever saw, great big pretty ones and they were dead ripe. So, he wanted to sell them. We didn't have any money and we had some lambs, butcher-size, quite a few lambs and I think Leonard traded him five lambs for that load of apricots and we put up nearly 500 quarts of apricots out of that bunch. Everybody got in and we put up all those apricots. We had apricots for a long time.

Hiram: Now in the winter, what would one day be like in the winter? Get up and wash in the morning?

Mazella: Oh, get up and fix breakfast, I guess. Go do chores—milk.

Hiram: What kind of chores did you have?

Mazella: Well, you had to milk cows and shovel manure out of the barns and shovel hay down to the stock. Take verything out and see that it's watered and

help load the hay to feed the cattle and things like that. We had seventy to eighty head of cows to feed every day. And the little calves came and little lambs and pigs and you had to look after all that stuff. Slops, feed 'em, cook stuff on the stove for sows so they'd have a lot of milk for their pigs. And when we milked the cows we had more milk than what we needed and we fed it to the pigs. And we always had milk cows and always set it out 'til we finally got a separator. We used to set it out and let the cream raise, skim it off and churn the butter, throw milk out to the pigs and chickens and that's the way we did that. Through the winter we had to slop the same as the summertime 'cause we always had cows to milk in the wintertime. We always had our own chickens and eggs and we butchered our own pork in the fall and cured the bacon and hams and put it up and give away the fresh meat like the backbones and ribs and spareribs.

Hiram: Who did you give it to?

Mazella: Gave it to anybody who would take it.

Hiram: Anybody who'd take it—for free?

Mazella: Yes, for free. Just give it to them. Gave away the heads, hogheads and the jaws, sometimes the feet, sometimes I cleaned a few feet and pickled them down. And then there was family people around the valley and we always gave them fresh meat.

Hiram: Well, a day in the springtime, what would you do? Just go through a whole day in the springtime, from when you got up in the morning.

Mazella: Well, in the spring, usually we got the kids off to school for one thing. And then after that there was milking to do, getting the garden planted and things leveled out and cleaned up around and fixing up fences and things like that. Get your gardens in and feeding time. After the range is opened up we put cattle on the range and then we didn't have the feeding to do. But, still mornings

we had to get up and milk the cows and feed the hogs and feed the chickens. Evening time we gathered eggs and milked again. And the milk was separated or strained and put in the cellars to raise the cream. After we got the separator we always separated all the milk we didn't want to drink. What we wanted to drink we set and put in the cool cellar or hung down in the bucket in the well to keep it cold, 'til we got a Frigidaire.

Hiram: What year did you get a refrigerator?

Mazella: Oh gosh, I don't know. It was about the time Dorothy got married, I guess and Dorothy was about seventeen. She was born in '22, about '39 I guess.

Hiram: When did you get electricity to the farm?

Mazella: We never did have any electricity when I was there.

Hiram: Never had?

Mazella: No, never did have electricity. We got water in when Chad was two years old I guess. A year or two years old 'fore I had any water in the house. I had it piped down from the spring. Put water in the house and then we had water in the house for a while and then, I don't know. . . I guess about '32 I think they finally got water in the house.

Hiram: Chad's thirty-eight now, so it's probably 36 years ago.

Mazella: Chad's thirty-eight now, so it's probably thirty-six years ago.

Hiram: In the summertime, what did you do in the summertime? What was your day in the summertime?

Mazella: Well, we had all the chores and everything to do and we usually had some men hired to help with the haying and I had to cook 3 meals a day for the men.

Hiram: How many men was that? How many men would that be?

Mazella: Oh, maybe four, five, six sometimes—all depends on what they were doing. Everthing was done by

hand. They had to pitch the hay on the wagons and fork it off. I drove derrick in the summertime. I used to from the time I was married. I always went and had a Jackson Fork to take the hay off the wagons and I had to drive the horse out and pull a fork up in the barn and they tripped it and I had to back the horse up and I'd take another load up and it took about, I'd say twelve-thirteen fork fulls to take a load of hay off, maybe. And I always drove the derrick 'til the kids got big enough to do it. Sometimes we'd try to hire a boy to do it, but they never could get them to do do very much, they didn't, boys didn't get very much them days, fifty cents a day was about the size of it.

Hiram: Oh boy! That's not too much money. How many children did you have? How many children *do* you have?

Mazella: Twelve.

Hiram: Where did you have them? Did you have them in the hospital?

Mazella: I had them at home.

Hiram: All of them?

Mazella: All of them except Douglas. Douglas was born in the hospital. And well, in my home and my mother's home. My mother took care of me when my babies were born—most of them. At first we sent for a doctor—he never did get there, took us . . . It was winter time, usual thing. It took him forever to get there. And the babies were born time he got there, so we decided we didn't have that much money. It cost $60 then.

Hiram: To have the doctor come out?

Mazella: To have the doctor come out and then he didn't do anything and he still charged us $60. So we saved us $60. Mom always had all the work done when he got there. The babies washed and dressed and taken care of and me taken care of.

Hiram: You said you had 6 kids by the age of twenty-four. How old were you by the time you had all twelve of them?

Mazella: Forty-one almost. Chad was born in May, I was forty-one in June.

Hiram: Can you describe any unusual events that happened during your lifetime?

Mazella: Oh gosh, lots of things happened.

Hiram: Like when the mountain lions were out there in Little Hot Springs Valley?

Mazella: Oh, yes. The deer used to be everywhere. They didn't come down in the field so bad until after the Forest Service—they stopped them from having any fires around you know, and then the brush burned out. Used to be lightning set fires you know, and it would burn out a lot of that brush and stuff and the deer always had plenty of feed back in the mountains when there was lots of burning, but then when they got the Forest Service down so pat and always had men on that were right there to put it out, why then the deer got so they came in the field bad, it was nothing to look out there and see a thousand head of deer in the field.

Hiram: A thousand head of deer in the field?

Mazella: Before they had the doe hunt. But after they had the doe hunt they cleaned them out like everything then you never had any deer at all around for years. They're building them back up again now, but that doe hunt they killed everything thay saw. If they didn't like the looks of it they just left it lay there and went and killed them another one. And if they killed a doe that was poor they just left it lay there. What they did. . . what was worst about that doe hunt was—a fawn usually nurses its mother 'til February. Well, they killed those does first part of October, then those baby deer didn't have anything to eat and they weren't strong enough to forage for their food and it come a real hard winter and the snow was deep that winter and Daddy went up there that winter right there one time and he found the bones of seven fawns. And he cut them open and they had nothing but sticks, some as big as your little finger nearly, that they'd eat

off oak trees.

Hiram: That's all they had?

Mazella: That's all they had. And they were dead there under a tree that the branches hung down on. You can't get the game wardens or the Forest Service or any of them to admit it. They won't do it, you know, I asked a fella, he was a government trapper and there was a game manager came to the house one day and he was telling me that deer would not eat alfalfa and I said "You can't tell me that: I know they will. They'll eat alfalfa, hay or anything."

"No," he said. "They won't because," he said, "Up at the hole in the rock where the deer were starving to death, we flew planes over there and dropped hay down and when it got so we could, we went in there and the deer were laying right there by those bales of hay, dead." And so I talked to a trapper and I told him about it and I said, "I can't see any deer laying down and dying by a bale of hay." I said, "They'd tear that all to pieces, they'd get that hay, they'd paw it or do something. They'd eat it." And he said, "Listen," he said. "They couldn't paw it because they were dead when they dropped that hay. I trapped through that country and I know, he says. "I reported those deer being dead up there, and there's where they went and dropped the hay—where those deer were all dead." And I said "Why didn't you tell 'em about it 'stead of having them say they laid down and died by a bunch of hay?" He said "I'm a government trapper. I wouldn't have a job."

Hiram: That's right. That's right.

Mazella: He said, "They'd fire me. If I told what they did, I'd be fired. I wouldn't have a job."

Hiram: What kind of crops did you raise on the ranch?

Mazella: Raised wheat and oats and barley and meadow hay and alfalfa.

Hiram: Were there any changes in the crops that you

raised throughout the years?

Mazella: Oh, yes. They changed from one thing to another each year. Try one thing, that didn't work, try something else. Lots of rye, some years it didn't rain. We didn't have anything irrigated except that little meadow and the rest of it was just grain hay, oats and barley and stuff like that. We used to have more rains, then it got so droughty and there were no rains and then things just went real bad.

[*Silence*]

Mazella: One year I raised twenty-seven bummer lambs.

Hiram: Bummer lambs being those that don't have any mothers?

Mazella: Bummer lambs were lambs that the mother wouldn't claim or she had two lambs and didn't have enough milk for them or something like that. And I'd raise them and feed them cow's milk and I fed them in pans. I'd hold them and let them suck my finger until they learned to suck and then just fed them pan milk, you know. And I fed them four to five times a day and they were nice lambs.

Hiram: How did you get your supplies? Did you buy them, did you trade for them, what did you do?

Mazella: Well, we bought them in stores with what money you had. We bought supplies. Well, they traded too like now when we had wheat and had the wheat harvested Leonard always took his to the mill and traded it for ground flour, you know, bring home a load of flour and bran. We used to could buy bran. The mill sold the bran—they didn't think it had any value to it. They bought it for stock feed. Like we always fed—when the sows had little pigs we always had a lot of bran to feed them. Mixed it with boiling water and give it to the old sows, you know. But now, they know that the bran is the best part of it. We used to feed it to the cows cause they always give more milk if we give them a big feed of bran in the morning, you know, take and pour boiling water over it and make it mush like.

Hiram: You got this water that you boil from the well, where you went and got it by yourself?

Mazella: Yes, the bran then had lots of—well it had fibre, but then it had a lot of the wheat left in it too, like the germ and all that stuff went out in the bran, see the germ of the wheat. And that was all right in the bran. That bran was good. I used to love to eat it. If you'd eat it raw, you know, it had a real nice flavor, but now then you couldn't. I bought bran, now, but it's nothin' but just the hull. Just the hull of the wheat. You'd choke to death trying to eat it. . . gets in your throat. But, way used to be it had lots of good to it, but probably Leonard used to get about a ton of bran every winter, you know. They'd bring back bran after trading in the wheat and bring it home and feed the stock.

Hiram: How big was the garden that you had, Grandma?

Mazella: 'Bout a acre.

Hiram: 'Bout an acre? What did you grow in your garden?

Mazella: Oh we grew everything, watermelon, cucumbers, tomatoes. That's one thing, I put up lots of tomatoes and made lost of pickles. We had green beans, peas and carrots and rutabagas and turnips, parsnips and radishes and lettuce and raised lots of corn. I used to grind about 500 pounds of corn every winter. The kids always had their pockets full of corn everywhere they went—a pocket full of dry corn to chew on.

Hiram: Did you have any funny things that happened to you while you were out there? Any funny things that you can remember like something your little boys did or something?

Mazella: Oh, my God, I don't know. I couldn't keep track of all they did. I was telling Jess last night about your dad one time. Oh, he did something, I don't know what he did and Daddy didn't like what he did anyhow and he picked him up and set him on the edge of the wood box. Stood him up there. He was about four years old and wasn't quite four. And he stood him up there on the edge of that wood box—

just inch boards, you know, and he said now you stand there for an hour and old Clayton, he just stood there and so finally Dad left the house about 10 minutes and I told him, I said "Oh come on honey, I said. "You can get down." And he said "No, Dad told me to stand here for an hour. I'm gonna stand right here. He said "Where's the clock?" So I set the clock out. He could tell time and he stood there for an hour. I don't know how he did it, but he just stood right on that wood box on the edge for a whole hour. That was kind of funny for him—I used to get mad and set them on chairs while I mopped the floor and make 'em set there 'til the floor got dry and things like that. I didn't want them to run in and out through the mud 'cause we had no lawn or anything and—stepped outside in the winter time and then their feet were covered with mud and they'd come back in the house there was nothing but a trail of mud through. You take 6 little kids running in and out of the house when you're trying to scrub. Why you just line 'em up and tell 'em if they got down they're gonna get a spanking. They just sat right there 'till I got the mopping done and got the floors dry. That's about all I know about that, but now if you'd like to know about Day. The three Day boys took that up as homesteads in the early days and then somebody else took up Pete Lorenzen's place and Grandpa Oilar bought his place from Calvin Hall and his father, and him and his brother bought it. That was Leonard's folks. That was when he was a young man, about seventeen or eighteen years old.

Hiram: How big was the ranch they bought?

Mazella: I think there was about two homesteads in there—about 320 acres.

Hiram: If you were going to say any changes that happened were the most profound that you could tell, what would they be? From when you were a little girl to now.

Mazella: From now? Oh, goodness, everything's changed. Nothing's the same. These roads were all muddy roads. Couldn't hardly get across. We couldn't get out through the winter. We just had to stay there. We were snowed in and now they have snow plows come in plow you out. The roads are partly paved. The Forest Service put the first telephones in there and all the people around the valley. Leonard cut telephone poles. I guess he cut all of them or did some. He never did get anything for that. And then he helped put the telephone line in. The men all worked and then they put the telephone line in.

Hiram: Three rings, four rings, five rings—did you have your own ring?

Mazella: Five rings, yeah, our ring was one long, two shorts and a long for a long time. Then it was changed for some reason. Then we had two shorts and two longs.

Hiram: Could everyone tell everyone else's ring on the line?

Mazella: Everybody's phone rang on the line.

Hiram: Did anyone ever pick up on the phone and listen?

Mazella: Yes, somebody was always eavesdropping, I guess.

Hiram: What were the hardest times you had while you were there?

Mazella: Oh, I don't know, nothing seemed too bad. We always had plenty to eat. We never had much money for clothes. I used to make my kids clothes out of clothes people would give me. I used to sit up 'til 4:00 in the morning working seams, pressing things, making coats and pants and what have you. I made my little kids little bloomers to wear while they crawled on the floor. Everybody going in and out. . . I couldn't keep the house clean, that was for a fact.

Hiram: But you tried though, huh?

Mazella: Oh, I tried. Sweep and scrub, but then you take six or seven little kids running in and out.

Hiram: Sweep and scrub a lot without getting a lot done.

They can make it dirty quick, I know how that turns out.

Mazella: Yes, we had a little creek there. The kids all played in it and walked through it and walked in the dirt, walked in the mud and walked in the house and it seemed to me like there was always dirt tracked in no matter how quick you got it scrubbed.

Hiram: If you were going to say anything for the younger generation to remember what would it be, Grandma?

Mazella: Like, now?

Hiram: Like for me, what would you tell me? What would you tell me to think about—work hard or what?

Mazella: Well, sure. If you get a job, do it to the very best of your ability. Any job you do, I think anybody should. If you're doing anything you ought to do it the very best of your ability to get it done. Otherwise if you do a sloppy job why you're not saying much for your country. I think all the people would do better in this country, and not. . . because now-a-days things are put together in factories and things that don't hold together—They don't do a good job at it. They get good pay, but they don't do good work.

Hiram: That's right.

Mazella: And I think that if a person's getting paid for work they ought to do a good job to the best of their ability, you know. I'd say anybody should do that. And if you're studying you should study to the very best of your ability. Try to retain what you learn. I never had a chance to go to school very much.

About The Interviewer

(No photo available).

Hiram Arthur Oilar, the interviewer, is the grandson of Mazella Gooch Oilar Jennings Coe. He is the eldest son of Clayton Oilar of Cedarville, California, and Barbara Lauman of West Linn, Oregon. He was born December 17, 1963.

In his young life, Hiram has won distinction as a high school athlete in football and track. The high point of his track career was reached when he and three teammates won the mile relay at the State Track Meet in Oregon, in the spring of 1982.

He is a graduate of West Linn High School and plans to attend California State Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo, where he will major in Ag Business and specialize in Ag Export.

Hiram Oilar is the first "young historian" to be featured in the *Modoc County Historical Society Journal.*

HAYDEN HILL

—Ann Odgers

HAYDEN HILL

by
Ann Odgers

Two decades after the well documented California Gold Rush of 1849, Modoc County experienced its first mining "boom" at a place some 16 miles south of Adin in what is actually Lassen County. Nonetheless, it impacted the development of Adin and the western portion of our county significantly enough to be considered a major event in Modoc's history. Certainly its mining history, as only one other district, High Grade, in the North Warner Mountains, can lay claim to igniting gold fever in the hearts of fortune seekers making their way to this area. High Grade experienced its heyday from 1908-1912, and its history will surely be recounted on a subsequent issue of this *Journal.*

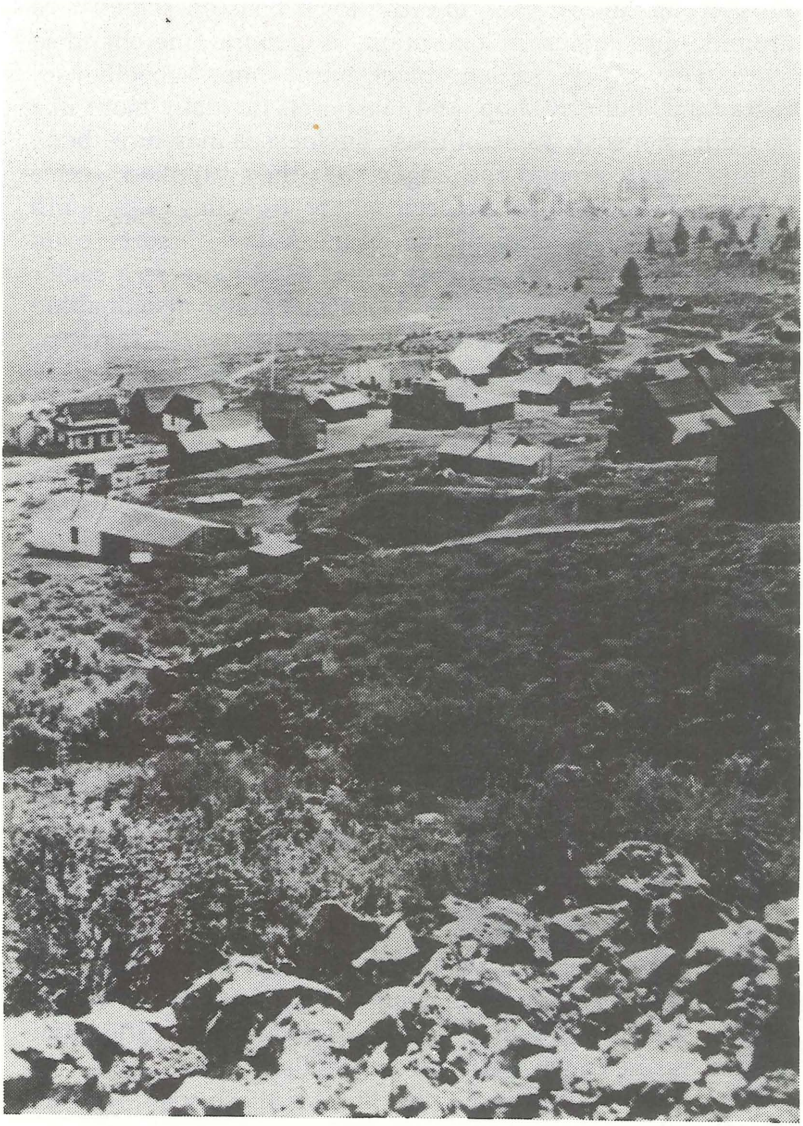
The Hayden Hill Rush occurred quite a bit earlier than High Grade's, when in the fall of 1869 (some accounts say the summer of 1870) a group of five Yreka prospectors and two local men camped in the hills south of Adin looking for gold. Many early settlers like these men had long been intrigued by the stories of a "Lost Cabin Mine" that hunters and trappers alleged existed somewhere in the area. It was this group, consisting of H. J. Ehlers, John Ogden, J. Miles, and the Reverends H.D. Haskins and John C. McKendrie from Yreka, and Adin McDowell and his son-in-law, L.W. Harris of Adin, who struck pay dirt.

The men had been searching for some time and were about ready to pull up camp on the southwest side of the hill

when the cook, believed to be Haskins, decided to clean out a nearby spring in preparation for departure. In so doing, he discovered an abundance of mica-looking material in the dirt he shoveled from the spring bed. When his companions examined it, none of them were too convinced it was really gold because of the vast quantities. Excitedly, they panned some samples and without delay left for Yreka to have it analyzed. Sure enough, it was found to be gold and they immediately returned to the site and marked off a 1,440 foot claim. The two reverends of the group christened the claim "The Providence" and with the others formed the Providence Mining Company. In the beginning, as much as $999 in a single day was taken out by the company. They felt they had found their comstock to be sure. However, as is true with other areas where gold was discovered, word leaked out and within weeks the original group was inundated with a multitude of others seeking their fortunes. Before summer's end in 1870, at least 500 men were digging on the Hill.

The community that built up around this mining boom was first known as Providence City. However, the town was later called Hayden Hill in honor of Joseph W. Hayden of Vermont, reputedly the oldest miner on the hill. Accounts differ, but it appears that Hayden and his partner Seneca Lewis had been digging around that area as early as 1868-69, and so he was considered the "grandaddy" of Hayden Hill. It is a shame that more information is not available on Hayden and Lewis. The record does show that they hung on at the Hill through thick and thin. At one "down" point around 1875 when many of the diggings had been abandoned, Hayden and Lewis stayed on and claimed the entire hill, although they could not hold it when others returned. Through it all, Hayden and Lewis never gave up, and both continued to live in a cabin on the north side of the Hill seeking their fortunes until their deaths. They had made some exciting finds in their day, but unfortunately both died poor men.

The "high" points for the Hill came in cycles. The years 1869-1973, 1878-1888, and 1906-1910 could be considered the best years, with 1885-1886 being the Hill's most



View of Hayden Hill, c. 1907. Elevation: 7,500'
—Photo courtesy of Beth Coppedge Walls and Tim I. Purdy

prosperous day. At that time the town boasted somewhere around nine mines in operation, a general merchandise store, post office, saloon, blacksmith shop, schoolhouse, restaurant, butcher shop, and two hotels (actually more like boarding houses). Some of these businesses may have been a little rough around the edges, but they supplied a nice variety of services to an area where traveling was quite difficult many months of the year. A jail of sorts even existed, but it is reported that it was used more as a cooler for venison than for prisoners. The schoolhouse also doubled as a "community hall" which was used for church services, dances, and town meetings. As is typical, those engaged in the businesses did better financially than most of the miners when the final tally was in.

The town was nearly wiped out by fire in 1910, and did manage to rebuild somewhat, but by then Hayden Hill's once lively days were essentially over. However, some of the mines were still being worked in the early Twenties and into the Thirties. With the Depression years and the end of the United States being on the Gold Standard, the fluctuations between boom and abandonment finally saw the latter prevail.

Throughout its early years, Hayden Hill was of major importance to the development of Adin. The town gained considerable importance as a supply point for the Hill in its beginning years, and with every subsequent boom, Adin of course prospered. The first rush of 1869-1870 brought men like Emanuel Lauer to Adin. He established a general merchandise store and was to become one of Modoc's first supervisors when in 1874 he was elected to represent his district in the newly formed county. Soon after, he moved to Alturas and continued to be a prosperous and influential Modoc businessman well into the 1900s.

What was the day-to-day life like for those who lived on the Hill? To be sure, the activity of the mines dominated all, but the hardworking miners and those fortunate enough to have families with them did try to enjoy what free time they had. Religious services were held on Sundays, and dances with live music were a common occurrence on Saturday nights. There was even a dancing school for gentlemen

conducted in 1881. From all reports, life on the Hill was more mild-tempered than in most other western mining towns which were notorious for their wild, boom or bust life styles.

Hayden Hill Store & Post Office
1918
This post office holds the record in Lassen County for being closed and reopened the most times (seven).
—Photo courtesy of the Lassen County Historical Society

Toward the end of its days, we get a rare glimpse of what Hayden Hill was like from the following. This excerpt was taken from the Journal of the 1920 Lassen County Census Taker, Thomas Hood.:

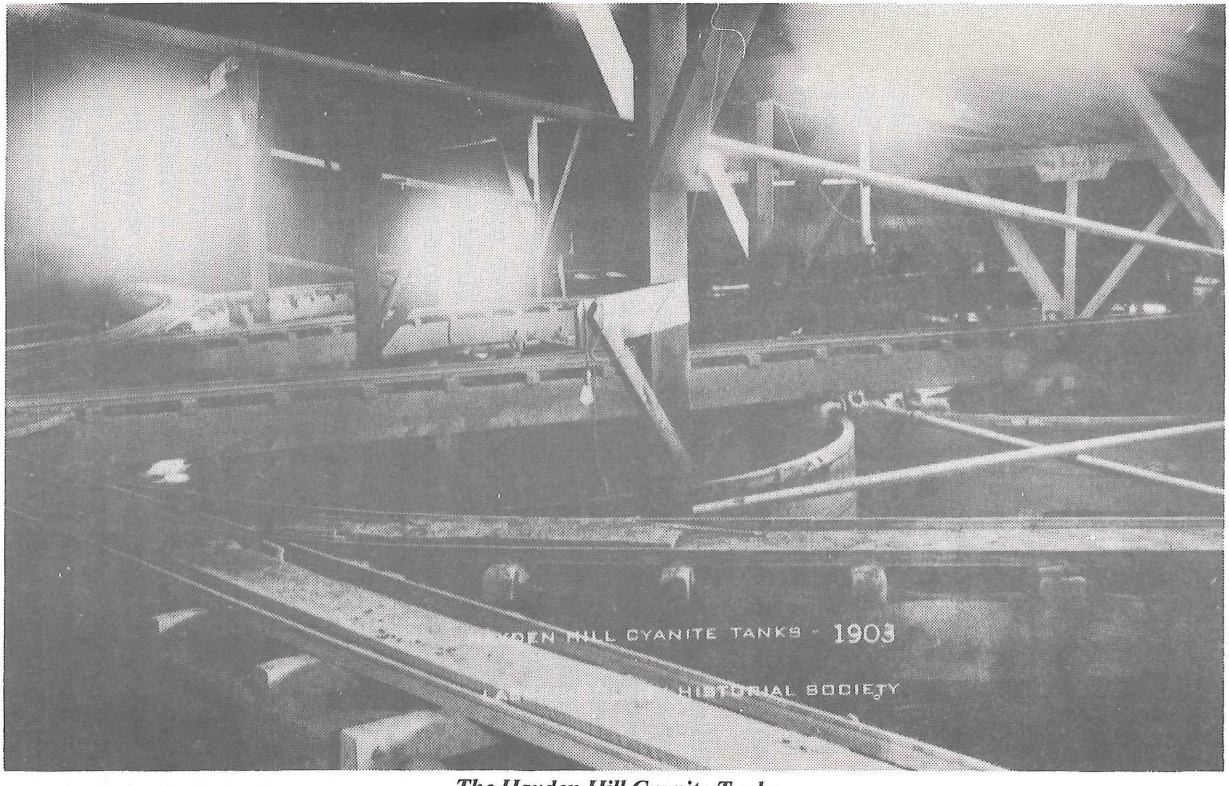
> As we drove into Hayden Hill it was almost dark, and yet not dark enough to hide one of the most magnificent sights I have ever beheld. I had thought that to stand on the Dufferin Terrace in the old city of Quebec and to gaze on the meeting of those two mighty rivers, the St. Lawrence and the St. Charles, and across them to the Plains of Abraham where Wolfe and Montcalm met their historic fate, was the most picturesque view on this continent; but, from the summit of Hayden Hill, I saw something more wondrous still.
>
> On my right, towering head and shoulders above his rivals, was old Shasta, snow-clad and majestic in solemn, silent, winter splendor; and on my left, the crowned pinnacle of Mount Lassen. It was a sight that made me think of the Infinite.
>
> At the Juniper Mine boarding house I was greeted most courteously by Mr. Mahar, the principal owner and superintendent of the mine. At supper, and also at breakfast the following morning, I met a gentleman who fairly made the air of that dining room blue with cuss words.
>
> How he could cuss, and yet in a most good natured way. If ever some institution should confer a medal or diploma for proficiency in the art of cussing, he certainly would carry off the honors; and if ever he should have the misfortune to be banished to regions below where Father Prout says there is precious little frost or snow, he sure would shock Old Satan—and yet, the next morning in the office where I interviewed him for census purposes, he being secretary of the company, I found him to be one of the quietest, and most courteous and gentlemanly men I had ever met, with handsome features and great personal charm, and I parted from him with real regret.
>
> The Hayden Hill people are very enthusiastic

about the future of the Juniper Mine, as the material for the construction of a 10-stamp quartz mill is on the ground.

Another matter about which the Hayden Hill people are greatly enthused, is the china and fire-brick clay discovery on the Anderson Ranch, one and half miles below town. Mr. Anderson is to receive a royalty of $1 per ton from a company which is under contract to have its machinery in place and work commenced by May 1st, and there are millions of tons of clay in sight.

This is the clay that has been pronounced by the State Bureau of Mines to be the finest china and fire brick clay known, and Lassen County is to have a millionaire who will make all our Susanville capitalists look like 30 cents.

Although it is hard to pin down realistic figures when "gold fever" is talking, as one often finds when researching old newspapers on this subject, it is a pretty sure guess that anywhere between two to three million dollars was taken from Hayden Hill over the years it was mined. Without doubt, it was the greatest gold producer that pioneer Modoc-Lassen was to know, but it never realized its full potential. Besides the Depression and abandonment of the Gold Standard, there were other insurmountable problems that could not be overcome. One of these was the lack of a good water supply. The town's drinking water came from a spring in one of the tunnels of the Golden Eagle Mine. The actual water necessary for mining had to be pumped up the mountain from Willow Creek, the only permanent water supply in the area. The mills that processed the ore were built in Willow Creek, but most of the mines were between two to three miles from these mills which was a considerable disadvantage. There is no doubt that this serious lack of water hindered development for many of the mines which would have shown greater profits had water been available. Another problem which kept cropping up was that at around the depth of 300 feet, thick layers of clay or chalky clay rock would cut off the veins of pay ore. Many owners, for lack of



The Hayden Hill Cyanite Tanks
1903
—Photo courtesy of the Lassen County Historical Society

capital, would not even attempt to penetrate this clay. Who knows what they would have found beneath had they been able to explore further and cut down to the 700-800 foot level as many experts felt was necessary for maximum returns. As a matter of fact, around 1892 there was serious talk of uniting the main mining companies so that together they could drive a deep tunnel through the mountain, cutting the veins to a depth of about 700 feet. The plan was to start the tunnel only a short distance from the creek. Such a consolidation undoubtably would have cut the expenses of milling and transporting the ore and made the overall mining more profitable. But apparently, because of lack of unity, organization, and capital, this idea never got off the drawing board.

It is of interest to read the 1892 "Report of the State Mineralogist for Lassen County," written at a time when most of the Hayden Hill mines were on the downgrade. Although this report is written specifically for Lassen County, keep in mind that Modoc and Lassen are basically the same in their geologic formation:

> This county, from its position on the east side of the Sierra Nevada Range, lies entirely outside of the California gold belt proper, and had never been considered as a mining county. Notwithstanding this fact, about twenty-five years ago, near the northern border, very rich veins and seams of gold-bearing quartz were found in altered sedimentary and eruptive formations, elevated above the surrounding lava-covered country; culminating in a hill named from one of its pioneer settlers, Hayden Hill. From this point about $2,000,000 has been extracted from a depth not exceeding anywhere 300 ft. A similar formation may be traced northward into a locality known as Happy Camp, in Modoc County, but nowhere, so far, have paying mines been developed along its course outside of Hayden Hill. Claims have been made that some of the veins in this locality carry platinum, and from the conditions presented it is not likely that a close search might show the presence of gems that have aluminum oxide as their

principal constituent. Large masses of a good quality of kaolin are found near the mines, but the distance from railroad communication makes them valueless for the present.

Only in two places in the county has any mining been carried on resulting in bullion shipments, and an increase in the mining area can only occur through accidental developments, the larger part of the country being covered by eruptive overflows, which obscure all indications of the presence of valuable mineral. Mineral-bearing quartz veins are known to exist to the west and south of Eagle Lake, but they have never been exploited.

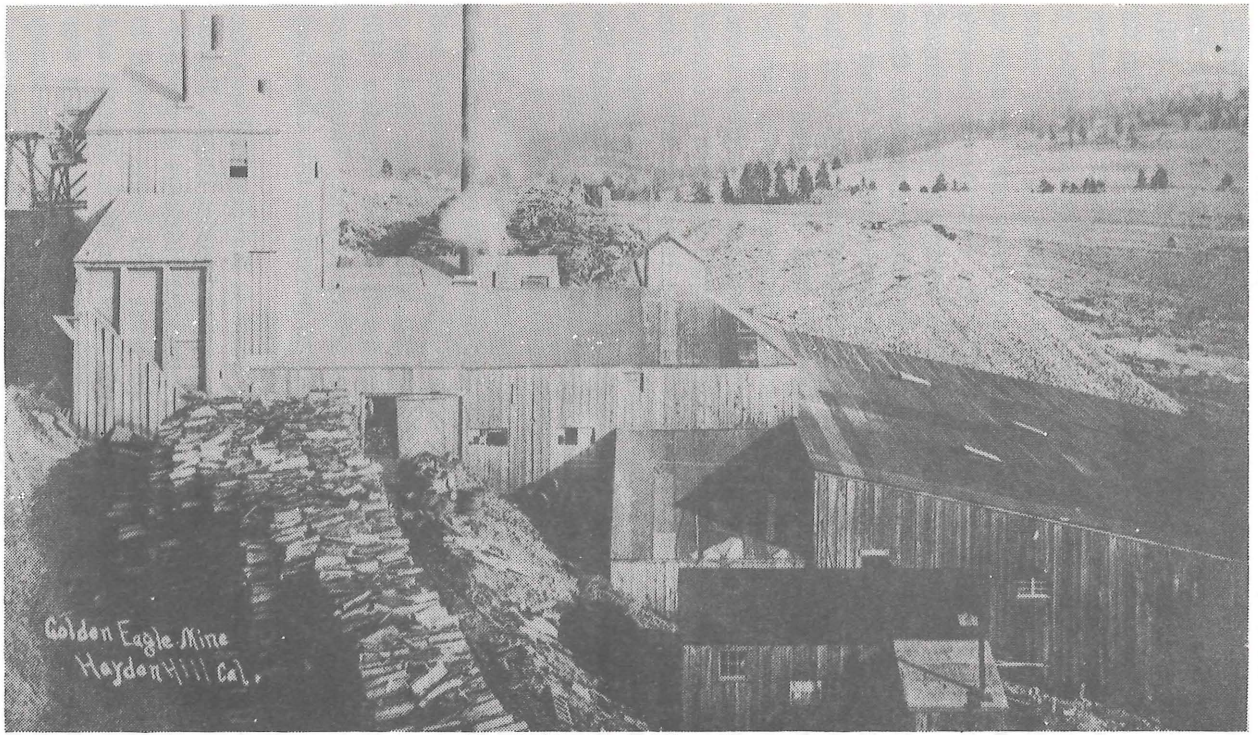
By E.B. Preston, E.M., Assistant in the Field
(Printed from the Lassen County
Historical Society's 1964 Publication)

The names of the actual mines that existed at Hayden are as intriguing as the history of the Hill itself. The following is an alphabetical listing of the mines that this writer uncovered in her research. By no means should the list be considered complete, as others surely existed. For most, there was no immediate history available except that their names were mentioned in passing. Some of the original names were changed over the course of time when new ownerships were established. We at the Modoc County Historical Society would appreciate being informed of any other mines that might have been worked in addition to the following:

The Accidental
The Blue Bell
The Brush Hill, Claim #1
The Brush Hill, Claim #2
The Don't Care
The Evening Star
The Excelsior
The Golden Eagle
(aka The Lassen Eagle)
The Gopher Gold
The Hayden Hill Consolidated
The Juniper
The Mount Hope
The North Star
The Providence
The Scotia
The Uncle Billy (aka The Hayden Gourge and the McDonnell Claim)

To conclude our overall view of Hayden Hill, let's take a closer look at several of these mines. THE PROVIDENCE, whose early history was recounted at the beginning of this article, was of course the first mine established on the Hill. By 1889, accounts say it had yielded nearly $125,000. But its development was always rocky. In 1870 its eager discoverers expanded the mine as best they could. They constructed a string of sluices and had the first arrastra (a heavy stone dragged around on a stone bed to pulverize ore) brought in and set up. In February of 1871, the Providence owners received an offer of $10,000 for their holdings. They refused and continued to put out hard cash for improvements to their operation. By the end of 1871, they had sunk their shaft on the ledge to fifty feet and bought a four-stamp mill from the Black Rock Mines of Nevada and had it moved to the Hill. The first crushings proved a disappointment, but by November of 1871, eight to ten thousand dollars a week were being realized. Nonetheless, inexperience and lack of capital prompted the fatal decision to become involved with a San Francisco Company in an effort to advance. This company's superintendent knew little of practical mining. Through his bad judgment and decisions, the Providence was condemned and the mill on Willow Creek abandoned. Those first owners who had so eagerly sought the legendary Lost Cabin Mine, had in fact lost it all. However, the mine was reopened in the 1880s when the second big rush to Hayden Hill occurred and its name apparently changed to the Mount Hope. But at a depth of only 100 feet, the nemesis of all Hayden Hill miners, that chalky clay rock, cut off the pay ore. The owners at that time did not even attempt to penetrate this clay, and so ends the story of The Providence.

Actually, the best developed mine at Hayden Hill was the GOLDEN EAGLE, later known as the Lassen Eagle. Established in 1877 by William and Leonidas Hopkins in partnership with C.N. Nash, its dumps were still being worked in 1934 by Adin residents Austin Woods and W.L. Merrill and a crew of four men. By 1879-1880, three years after it was started, the Golden Eagle's owners had put in a five-stamp mill and the mine had reportedly produced several hundred thousand dollars worth of gold. It was still running in high



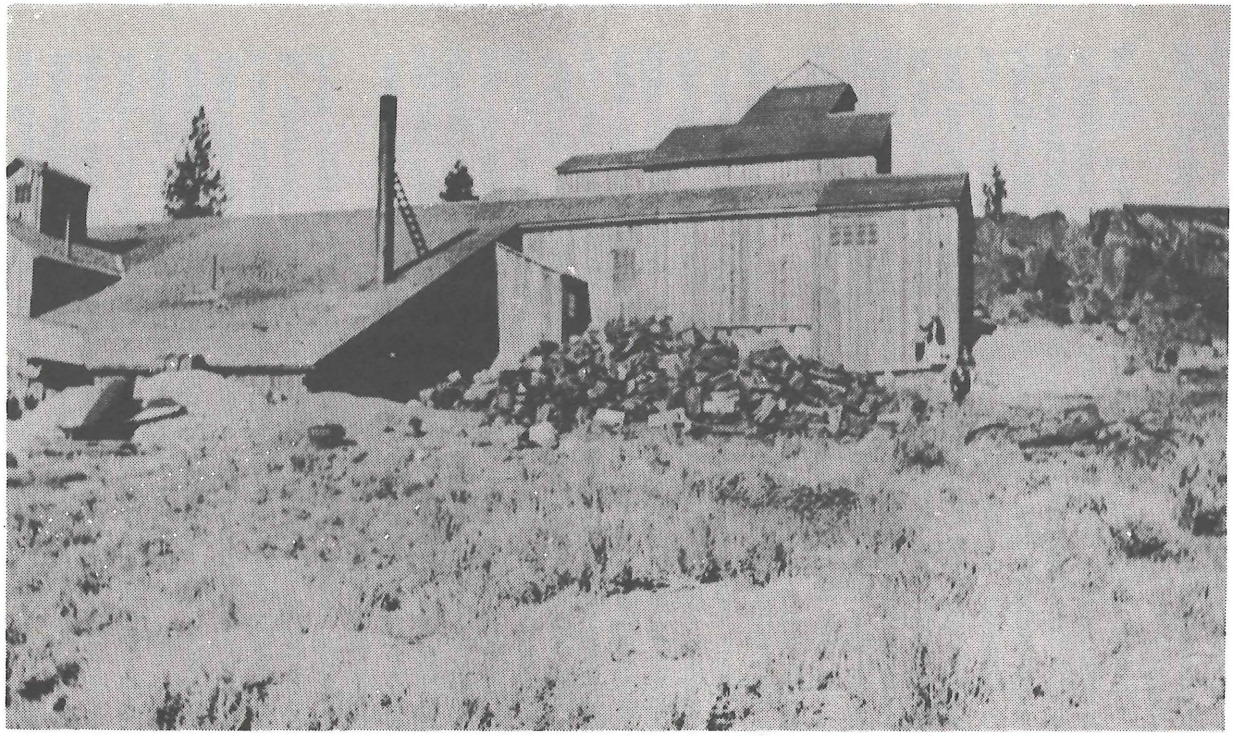
The Golden Eagle Mine, Hayden Hill
December 9, 1909
—Photo courtesy of Dallas Snider and Tim I. Purdy

gear around 1908 when it employed up to 150 men at peak season. Readers will remember that it was from a spring in this mine that the town's drinking water was supplied in the early years.

The Golden Eagle was located on a wavering vein of gold-bearing quartz. By 1888 the talc walls were tunnelled in to about 175 feet, intersecting this vein of quartz at the depth of approximately 50 feet. The shaft had been sunk vertically to about 228 feet. In the 1880s, the expense of mining the Golden Eagle per foot was quite cost effective compared to a companion mine, the Evening Star. The Eagle's costs ran at only $1.50 per foot to tunnel as opposed to as high as $10.00 per foot for the Star. In addition, mining costs ran at $3.00 per ton for the Eagle as compared to $5.60 per ton for its more expensive counterpart.

THE EVENING STAR was located just northwest of the Golden Eagle and was established in 1870. Its ore was a quartz mixed with talcose rock. Kaolin was also commonly encountered in the digging of this mine. And 1880's report on the Evening Star gives us an interesting glimpse at what kind of wages the workers earned: $2.84 per day for the miners and $40 a month for those running the mill. In 1888, six men were working this mine at a depth of 281 feet. Along with the Golden Eagle, the Evening Star was definitely one of the district's most continuous ore producers. Even though its yields did not show that great of a gold output, and the operational costs were higher than the average, the Star persevered where others failed.

And finally, what might be considered the Hill's most remarkable mine, THE JUNIPER, is worthy of comment. It is remarkable in that it produced a half million dollars over a three to four year period. But when that old demon, clay rock was encountered at about 300 feet, the Juniper's operators decided to dig no farther and be happy with the healthy profits that the short-lived exploration had generated. After 1890, leasors came in to mine the waste and further scrape down the existing walls and timbers. For a time, this proved profitable, and there were periods when those working the Juniper had great expectations for its revival. But at some point in the 1920s when it was clear that any further



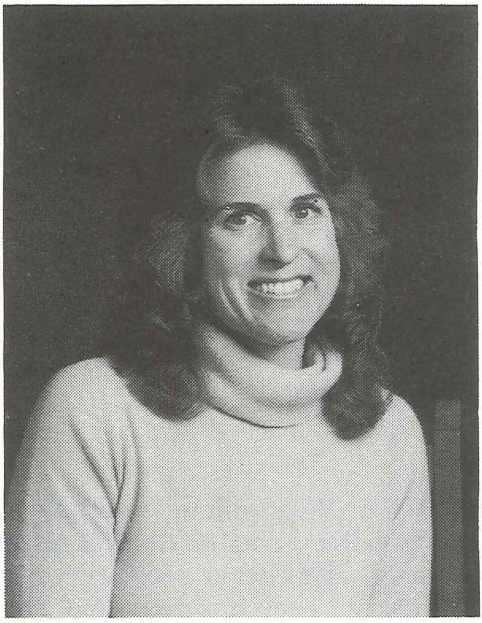
The Juniper Mine, Hayden Hill
c. 1920
—Photo courtesy of Lola L. Tanner and Tim I. Purdy

exploration of the mine would be unfeasible and unprofitable, the Juniper was all but abandoned. Its mine building remained standing until 1956 when it burned to the ground, apparently a victim of lightning. What was known as the Juniper Home survived three separate fires, a remarkable feat when one considers the Hill's lack of immediate water.

Today, only a few remains of the once lively community of Hayden Hill can be found. The interested explorer may discover pieces of a wooden flume or remains from one of the many wooden cabins and shacks that once dotted the region. The cemetery, although in a state of disintegration, is a lonely reminder of the energetic and hopeful miners who once tried to stake their claims and build their fortunes on what became affectionally known as "The Hill." Indeed, the history of Hayden Hill represents a lively and colorful chapter from the past of Modoc and Lassen Counties.

Pertinent Dates to the Development of Hayden Hill

1869 — Gold discovered at Hayden Hill. Providence Mining Co. established. (This is the same year that Adin was settled, named after Adin McDowell).
1870 — First marriage conducted (in October)
1871 — Hayden Hill Post Office established in April. Located in the store of Hans J. Ehlers of Denmark.
1872 — First school opened.
1875 ± — Mining activity slackens, post office closed.
1878 — Revival of the settlement.
1879 — Opening of a branch store by the Adin firm of Roseberry & Knight (aka Roseberry, Harvey & Co.).
1881 — Newspaper now servicing the Hill, The *Mountain Tribune*, Thomas Ford of Beiber, Publisher.
1885 + — Considered Hayden Hill's Heyday.
1889 — Telegraph and telephone line completed to Alturas via Hayden Hill and Adin.
1892 ± — Mining slackens, district on the downgrade.
1908 — Mining activity reaches another peak.
1919 — Hayden Hill Post Office closed for the last time.
1921 — Only about eight children being taught at the Hayden Hill School
1934 — The last hurrah.



About The Author

Ann Wylie Odgers, a native of Cedarville, was born in 1949 and traces her Modoc roots back to 1880, when her great-grandparents, James and Martha Wylie, settled in Surprise Valley.

In 1962, she moved to San Diego County with her family where she attended schools in Escondido, California. After graduating from San Diego State University in 1972 with a degree in English Literature, she proceeded to obtain her elementary and secondary teaching credentials from San Diego's United States International University Campus in 1974.

Motivated by the desire to settle into a more rural life style, she and her husband Gary returned to Cedarville in 1976 where they continue to live with their four year old daughter Danielle. Ann has been curator of the Modoc County Museum since 1977 where her love for Modoc's history is continually nurtured. She is a past president of the Modoc County Historical Society, serving from 1982-1983.

HAYDEN HILL DIRECTORY

AUTHOR'S NOTE: What follows is a listing of all known Hayden Hill residents that I discovered while researching this article. Undoubtedly, many other people lived in this area and affected its history, so this directory should by no means be considered "complete." Hopefully, through future research and readers' contributions, the list can be added to over the years so that an even more comprehensive study of Hayden Hill is available.

ALLEN, Mrs. Van	—A teacher, no date available.
AMENT, Albert & Son	—From Illinois, they worked the first arrastra on the Hill in 1875 with Al Simpson & Amos Swan. Albert was also the postmaster in 1874.
ANDERSON, Cecil	—Played harmonica at dances, no date available.
ANDERSON, Harmon Prior	—A miner, arrived in 1878, ran a general merchandise store in the early 1900s.
ANDERSON, Minnie	—Wife of Harmon P., ran a boarding house called the Anderson Hotel in the 1880s.
ANDERSON, Mrs. N.A.	—A widow, lived at Hayden Hill in 1885.

ANDERSON, Rhoda —A teacher, no date available, later married Joe Steele.

ARNETT, Blossom —Wife of Guy, ran a boarding house in 1908, played violin.

ARNETT, Guy —A miner, played violin with his wife Blossom at community dances.

* * *

BANKS, John —A miner, no date available.

BASS, Mrs. —A teacher, no date available.

BIEBER, N. —Secretary of the Hayden Hill Consolidated Mine.

BLAIR, A.W. —First postmaster in 1871, also a miner.

BRADSHAW, B.S. —Ran a restaurant in 1881.

BROWN —First name unknown. Installed two power plants (110 & 220 volt) in the 1920s. Probably the same man who built what was known as the Brown Building, used as a shop for machinery repairs, etc.

BUNTON, NEWHOUSE & CO. —Actively mining in 1872.

BURGETT, W.H. —A miner, no date available.

* * *

CADY, Frank —A stockraiser in 1885 on 400 acres. Also a resident of San Joaquin Co.

CAMPBELL, Thomas —Struck a ledge with Joseph LaPoint in 1875.

CASTRO, Morris L. —A miner, no date available.

CHITTOCK, Albert G. —Ran a saloon in 1908±, mined on Hill from 1903-1912.

CHITTOCK, Ruth —Wife of Albert G., daughter of Harmon P. Anderson.

COLLIER, Jack —Superintendent of the Golden Eagle Mine in 1908.

CRAMER, Charles —With brother Daniel, built a hotel & feed stable in 1870.

CRAMER, Daniel —See above.

* * *

DALE, W. —Owner of the Gopher Mine.

DANIELS, Francis M. —A miner, no date available.

DEWITT, Miss —A teacher in the 1880s, later married Mort Collier.

DILLON, N.B. —Associated with the Blue Bell Mining Co. in 1885.

DOYLE, Miss —A teacher in 1885, later married Lyman Stiles.

DRISCOLL, Ed —Ran a saloon in 1908.

DUNBAR, William A. —A miner, no date available.

* * *

EDIS, Perry F. —From Pennsylvania, the Hill's first teacher in 1872.

EHLERS, Hans J. —From Denmark, one of the original discoverers of Providence City; also ran a store that housed the Hill's first post office.

* * *

FAIR, Samuel —From Ohio, postmaster after A.W. Blair, served until 1874.

FLUENT, James S. —A miner, no date available.

FORD, Thomas —From Bieber, published the first newspaper that served Hayden Hill in 1881, *The Mountain Tribune.*

* * *

GRAVES, W.C. —Owner of a blacksmith shop with W.P. McBride in the 1870s-1880s.

* * *

HALL, Charles C. —A miner, no date available.

HALL, James —A stockraiser on 160 acres in 1885.

HARBERT, Lee L. —Owner of the Brush Hill Mine with brother W.F. Harbert.

HARBERT. W.F. —See above.

HARRIS, L.W. —One of the original discoverers of Providence City, son-in-law of Adin McDowell.

HARROLD, James P. —A miner, no date available.

HASKINS, Rev. H.D. —One of the original discoverers of Providence City.

HAYDEN, Joseph W. —For whom the Hill was named in 1870.

HIGHT, Edgar F.
William M.
William W. —Miners, no dates available.

HOES, G.F. —Owner of the Evening Star Mine in 1876-1885+.

HOPKINS, Leonidas H. —Established the Golden Eagle Mine in 1877 in partnership with William H. Hopkins and C.H. Nash. They built a five-stamp mill c. 1879-1880. Leonidas was also the postmaster in 1878.

HOPKINS, William H. —See above. Also had a residence listing in Calistoga.

HOWARD, W.C. —Associated with the Blue Bell Mining Co. in 1885.

* * *

JOHNSON, Robert —Built a mill in 1871 with Frank Murphy.

* * *

KNIGHT, George H. —Established a general merchandise store in 1879 with his partner Thomas Roseberry, a branch of their Adin store. This store was later known as Roseberry, Harvey & Co.

* * *

LACERT, Aimee —A miner, no date available.

LAKE, T.H. —A farmer & stockraiser in 1885.

LAPOINT, Joseph —Struck a ledge in 1875 with Thomas Campbell.

LES, William M. —A miner, no date available.

LEWIS, J.C. —A miner, also associated with Harbert & Co. and Roseberry, Harvey & Co. in 1885.

LEWIS, Seneca S. —Partner of the Hill's namesake, J.W. Hayden.

LONKEY, Xavier —A farmer & stockraiser on 160 acres in 1885.

LOVE, Rachael —A teacher, no date available.

LOVELAND, Will —Believed to be a miner in the 1870s-1880s.

* * *

McBRIDE, W.M. —A farmer & stockraiser in 1885.

McBRIDE, W.P. —Owner of the McBride & Graves Blacksmith Shop in the 1870s-1880s.

McLEAN/McCLAIN, Dan —A miner in 1885, ran a hotel in 1908.

McCRARY, Mrs. —A teacher from 1903-1908.

McCURDY, Norton V. —A miner, no date available.

McDONNELL, William —Associated with the Don't Care Mine in 1885. Also a resident of Calistoga.

McDOWELL, Adin —One of the original discoverers of Providence City, also the namesake of the town of Adin.

McFARLING, George W. —A miner, no date available.

McFARLING, John —Superintendent of the Juniper Mine in 1885. Also a resident of Oakland.

McKEAN, West H. —A miner, no date available.

McKENDRIE, Rev. John C. —One of the original discoverers of Providence City.

McKINSEY, Nobel S. —Established telephone & telegraph service in 1889.

MAHAR, Mr. —Owner & superintendent of the Juniper Mine in 1920.

MASSINGILL, W.A. —Associate with Roseberry, Harvey & Co. on the Hill in 1885.

MERRILL, W.L. —Worked the Golden Eagle Mine with Austin Woods in 1934.

MILES, J. —One of the original discoverers of Providence City.

MITCHELL, Dave —The last man to deliver mail to the Hill.

MURPHY, Frank —Brought in the mill machinery for the Providence Mining Co. in 1871.

* * *

NASH, C.H. —See "Hopkins, Leonidas H.". Nash was also a resident of Calistoga.

NEBINEKER, Mrs. E.F. —Associated with Roseberry, Harvey & Co. in 1885.

NELSON, John C. —A miner, no date available.

NEUHOUSE —See "Bunton".

NORTON, Eber —A miner, no date available.

* * *

OGDEN, John —One of the original discoverers of Providence City.

OWEN & CO. —Associated with the Accidental Mine in 1872.

OWENS, S. —Owner of the Uncle Billy Mine.

* * *

PARRISH. A., I., & F. Stockraiser in 1885.

PECK, J.L. —Associated with Roseberry, Harvey & Co. in 1885.

PERRAULT, R. —A stockraiser in 1885.

PINKERTON, Mrs. —A teacher, no date available.

PRESTON, E.B. —Owner of the Blue Bell Mine in 1885.

* * *

RICHEY, Alonzo P. —A miner, no date available.

ROSE, Jerry —A miner and hotel keeper in 1885.

ROSEBERRY, Thomas A. —See "Knight, George H." Other associates of Roseberry were Mrs. E.F. Nebineker, J.C. Lewis, W.A. Massingill, & J.L. Peck.

* * *

SAILING, Richard —Mined, ran a butcher shop, livery/-feed stable, and The Fashion Saloon while he lived on the Hill in the 1870s through the 1880s.

SHELBY, John C. —A miner, no date available.

SIMPSON, Al —See "Ament."

SMITH, Dr. —Although he lived in Adin, Dr. Smith was the only doctor for Hayden Hill residents for many years.

SNIDER, Mrs. Blanche —Came to the Hill as a bride in 1908, teacher of 8 children there in 1921.

SNIDER, Elizabeth —Ran a boarding house.

SNIDER, Michael —A stockraiser on 160 acres in 1885.

SOONER —See "Ward."

SPALDING/ SPAULDING, Ida —A teacher in 1878, as well as a postal assistant to L.H. Hopkins. Married Arthur Ruggles sometime after 1885.

STEARNS, William G. —A miner, no date available.

SUMMERS, T. —Owner of the North Star Mine.

SUMMERS, W.T. —Proprietor of a hotel & stables in 1885.

SWAN, Amos —See "Ament."

* * *

TROUT, J.S. —A stockraiser in 1885.

* * *

UNDERWOOD, Mr. —Acted as a minister when none other available.

* * *

VANDERELST, F. —Owner of the Brush Hill Mine

* * *

WARD & SOONER —Operated an arrastra in 1872.

WHITE, John —A stockraiser in 1885.

WILLIS, Clara —Postmaster in 1885.

WOODS, Austin —Worked the Golden Eagle Mine with W.L. Merrill in 1934.

Hayden Hill

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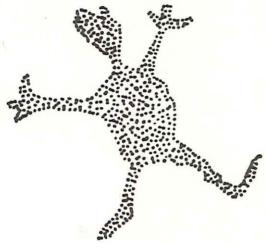


REGISTERED VOTERS OF WESTERN MODOC COUNTY—AN EXTRACT FROM THE GREAT REGISTER OF THE COUNTY OF MODOC, 1898— A Demographic Mini-study

—Patricia Barry

REGISTERED VOTERS OF WESTERN MODOC COUNTY— AN EXTRACT FROM THE GREAT REGISTER OF THE COUNTY OF MODOC, 1898

Extracted by Pat Barry

One would hardly expect to find inspiring reading in a Register of Voters. Yet, the old registers contain much information, including a man's personal appearance, his age, his country or state of birth, whether or not he was literate, and his occupation. A *man's* personal appearance? Yes, for in 1898, women were not yet voting in the State of California! I present here the names, places of birth, and ages as listed for the voters of the precincts of western Modoc County in 1898, in the order that they appear and add remarks at random regarding the other listings. Can you find a relative listed here?

NAME	AGE	PLACE OF BIRTH
Adin Precinct		
Auble, Charles C	53	New York
Bouchard, John	73	Michigan
Bennet, David J.	54	Indiana
Baldwin, David Riley	35	California
Blaske, Morris	28	California
Bosworth, Francis	36	Illinois
Conklin, Edward	33	Oregon
Chisholm, Frank James	30	California
Cate, LaFayette	65	New Hampshire
Conklin, William Ellsworth	33	Oregon

Chambers, Charles	44	Iowa
Clark, Richard B.	43	Indiana
Conlin, Gamaliel Daniel	38	Missouri
Conklin, Joseph G.	64	New York
Conklin, Charles W.	35	Oregon
Dibble, Samuel Chandler	60	Ohio
Derr, George	67	Pennsylvania
Fruits, John Sebastian	44	Iowa
Grubbs, Elisha Parter	71	Virginia
Griffith, Nathaniel	40	California
Hatton, Claude Techmaker	37	California
Harbert, Frank DeWitt	23	California
Howard, Edward Charles	49	Iowa
Harper, Robert Alexander	47	Missouri
Hatton, Augusta Cheauteaux	45	Missouri
Harvey, Charley Francis	21	Missouri
Higgins, Curtis Alexander	51	North Carolina
Harvey, Marion Samuel	24	Missouri
Harvey, Thomas William	24	California
Hoskins, William Foster	26	California
Hill, James	30	Oregon
Harris, Bert W.	33	California
Harvey, James Larkin	29	Missouri
Harvey, Thomas Marion	29	Missouri
James, Charley William	21	Missouri
Killion, Joseph	50	Germany
Kesselring, Francis Marion	40	California
Kelley, Charles Wesley	52	Indiana
Knight, George Horace	53	Massachusetts
Mitchell, Joseph Hunter	76	Ohio
Morgan, Jesse Absalom	52	Indiana
Monneron, Jule	27	Switzerland
Mehler, Frederick William	42	Germany
Morgan, James Buchanan	41	Indiana
McDowell, Adin Gainey	80	Kentucky
McClure, William Henry	50	Illinois
McClure, Thomas	70	Illinois
McDowell, Luther Grant	32	Oregon
McClure, Martin	90	Kentucky
McClure, Charles Wesley	39	Illinois
McClure, Staley Duram	44	Illinois
Nebeker, Jasper Wilson	35	Oregon
Nash, Alva Watson	30	Wisconsin

Niles, J. Eugene	45	Michigan
Nelson, Thomas Jefferson	38	Arkansas
Ogden, John	77	England
Philliber, William Clinton	34	Missouri
Rice, Charles William	42	Oregon
Rice, George Freelin Hustin	64	Tennessee
Rice, Thomas Jefferson	38	Oregon
Scarlett, William Cathcart	48	Indiana
Sheldon, Darwin Mortimer	68	Vermont
Smith, Charles Augustus	53	Michigan
Shepard, Irvin	71	New York
Sheldon, Eddy Lamb	31	California
Smelcer, Peter Joseph	32	Michigan
Smith, William N.	29	Missouri
Straub, Willaim	57	Germany
Traugh, Lemuel George	23	California
Taylor, Samuel Warren	25	Missouri
Totten, Benjamin Franklin	30	California
Traugh, Arthur Mathias	21	California
Talbot, Thomas Irvin	79	Missouri
Wilson, Ezra Morton	32	Illinois
Walker, George Roseberry	21	California
Wilson, Joseph	60	Pennsylvania
Wayman, Benjamin M.	44	Missouri
Williams, Phineas	60	Missouri

Of these men who voted in Adin precinct, only six were six feet tall or more. Nine of them had damaged hands, mostly because of fingers missing. Of the 789 voters, more than half had blue or gray eyes. The oldest voter was Martin McClure, at 90.

Little Hot Springs Precinct

Brown, William Wallace	46	Illinois
Baker, Obadiah Ethelbert	62	New York
Cullers, John Henry	44	U.S.A.
Day, Samuel	47	Illinois
Day, Nathaniel Thurston	92	Maine
Frasier, Harry W.	28	California
Gassaway, Frank M.	30	California
Gassawway, Robert S.	42	California
Gassaway, Genjamin Franklin	23	California
Lorenzen, Peter	56	Prussia
McCarter, Moses	69	Tennessee

Seeger, Jacob	60	Germany
Schneider, Daid	49	Germany
Oilar, Frank D.	28	California

Of these men who voted in Little Hot Spring precinct, only one was six feet tall or over. Only one had a "visible mark or scar." They were predominantly blue or gray eyed. While more than a dozen occupations, including "cooper" and "watchmaker" were listed for the larger group from Adin Precinct, all from Little Hot Springs were listed as "farmer." The oldest voter, Nathaniel Thurston Day, was 92.

Lookout Precinct

Abernathy, Paschal	54	Missouri
Brown, Marvin Jones	64	New York
Brown, James William	37	Missouri
Brown, Rufus Benton	35	Missouri
Brown, Claud Raymond	21	California
Carpenter, James Albert	23	California
Crowley, James	69	Missouri
Craig, Edward Hemdon	45	Missouri
Craig, Robert Andrew	70	Kentucky
Cannon, Richard Mahlon	22	California
Carpenter, Erva Lucius	27	California
Cramer, Ellett Hudson	66	Pennsylvania
Courtright, Alexander	46	Ohio
Carpenter, Lucius Charles	66	New York
Cannon, Ira Smith	52	Missouri
Cannon, Mahlon	47	Missouri
Criss, Walter Scott	40	Minnesota
Craig, John Robinson	43	Missouri
Dunlap, Robinson	32	Pennsylvania
Dunlap, Andrew Robinson	67	Pennsylvania
Depp, John	75	Kentucky
Eades, Granville	76	Kentucky
Eades, Andrew Jackson	45	Indiana
Eades, Isom	48	Indiana
Eades, Lewis Madison	51	Indiana
Gould, John	48	England
Gerland, Adam	67	Germany
Gould, Thomas Earl	21	Missouri
Gooch, Charles James	61	Massachusetts
Howell, James Arthur	23	California

Hall, Franklin	24	California
Hall, Calvin	69	Ohio
Huffman, Edgar Lee	35	West Virginia
Hardin, Adolphus Manzell	24	California
Hadley, Arthur Eugene	29	New Jersey
Hagerman, Pete Henry	47	New York
Hastings, Isaac James	45	Maryland
Hogan, John	49	Texas
Howell, George Washington	54	Indiana
Judson, Charles Herbert	39	Kansas
Johnson, Clark	50	Ohio
Kresge, Jervis Elmer	33	Pennsylvania
Kasper, Frederick	50	Wisconsin
Kennedy, Edward	59	Ireland
Kresge, John	59	Pennsylvania
Lorenz, Henry	36	Germany
Lorenz, Christian	71	Germany
Leventon, Joseph Weldon	37	California
Leventon, Robert Edward	33	California
Marids, William W.	68	Kentucky
Myers, Grayson Delbert	27	California
Marcus, John Wayne	66	Missouri
Marcus, James Edwin	26	California
Morris, William Dudley	47	Missouri
Myers, James Rudolph	60	Alabama
McCoy, John Mandeville	51	Mississippi
Nichols, Richard Lee	32	Oregon
Noble, Thomas	54	Illinois
Oliver, Levi L.	36	Texas
Osborne, Thomas Waller	66	Illinois
Porter, William Pratt	28	California
Potter, Richard Rush	54	Michigan
Potter, John James	30	Michigan
Page, William Edwin	59	Illinois
Purrott, John Mansfield Roe	48	Missouri
Potter, Tim	27	Michigan
Payne, John P.	79	Virginia
Roberts, Fred H.	48	Michigan
Read, H. Perrin	49	Missouri
Shaw, Jasper	44	Tennessee
Summers, Perry	35	California
Simas, Domingo	37	Portugal
Smith, William Thomas	56	Illinois

Sherman, Elisha Albert	57	Maine
Shearer, Thomas Lewis	21	Iowa
Stobie, James B.	34	Texas
Smith, Benjamin	79	New York
Turnbull, John Thomas	27	California
Turnbull, William	24	California
Triplett, John Franklin	27	Utah
Trowbridge, Orin Alonzo	21	California
Trowbridge, Eli Seely	44	New York
Vickers, Livingstone Edward	37	California
Fickers, Thomas Byron	47	Tennessee
Whalen, Peter	49	Ireland
Wendt, William Frederick	34	Germany
Welch, Mike	27	Nevada

In Lookout Precinct, the eye-color pattern was like that of Adin and Little Hot Springs, with an overwhelming 63 of 87 men having blue, gray or "light" eyes. Ten of the men of Lookout Precinct were over six feet tall. In this group, which had nine more voters than Adin Precinct, the same pattern of damaged hands appeared. In both groups, it was the most common of the "visible mark or scar" notings recorded by the registrar.

Tule Lake Precinct (including Steele Swamp)

Brown, Frank Edward	42	California
Brown, William Robert	36	California
Brown, George Washington	81	New York
Bonde, Lauritz	48	Germany
Bonde, Peter	46	Germany
Dean, Charles	54	Massachusetts
Diedricksen, Christ	52	Denmark
Daly, John Henry	33	Oregon
Hager, Edward Douglass	32	
Jones, Harvey Loveal	43	California
Janes, William Henry	41	Minnesota
Jackson, Arthur J.	32	California
Kirkpatrick, James M.	40	California
Knight, Cisero Hinschaw	38	North Carolina
Templeton, Hosea	43	Indiana

In Tule Lake Precinct, 100 percent of the men had blue or gray eyes, and only one was six feet or over. Three occupations, farmer,

stockraiser, and laborer, were listed. None had "visible marks or scars."

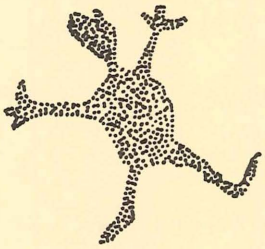
* * *

Thus, the 1898 Great Register, while on the surface only a sterile listing of voters, their identifying marks, ages, occupations, heights, and places of birth, turns out to be instead a fertile review of the kind of people who settled and lived in western Modoc County in the nineteenth century. It is a grand insight into a frontier community.

From the seemingly barren statistics, it is possible to draw the following conclusions: Western Modoc, near the turn of the century, was inhabited by male voters who came from 28 states other than California. There were also naturalized male voters who had been born in six countries other than the United States. Among the occupations listed were lawyer, teacher, horse breaker, cooper, engineer, merchant, blacksmith, miller, watchmaker, clerk, physician, bookkeeper, hotel keeper, photographer, laborer, farmer, and stockraiser.

These men were predominantly alike in that they were blue-eyed, light skinned, and of medium height, even though they hailed from twenty-nine states, counting California, and six countries. Most of them were past their twenty-ninth birthday. The oldest voter, aged 92, was born in 1806; therefore, he had lived through the times of the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the Civil War. He had lived through the Gold Rush to California, and both the Nevada mining excitements. He was alive during the Battle of the Little Big Horn and the Modoc War.

So, in an old Voters' Register, we find the living frontier, a demographic study, and American history swiftly being made. And perhaps the most astounding thing of all, was that every voter could read and write.



MODOC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL FIVE-YEAR INDEX 1979-1983

—Compiled by the Staff of the
Modoc County Museum

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This "little man" logo of the Modoc County Historical Society is taken from a Native American petroglyph found in an archaeological site in the Warner Mountains.